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http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/298

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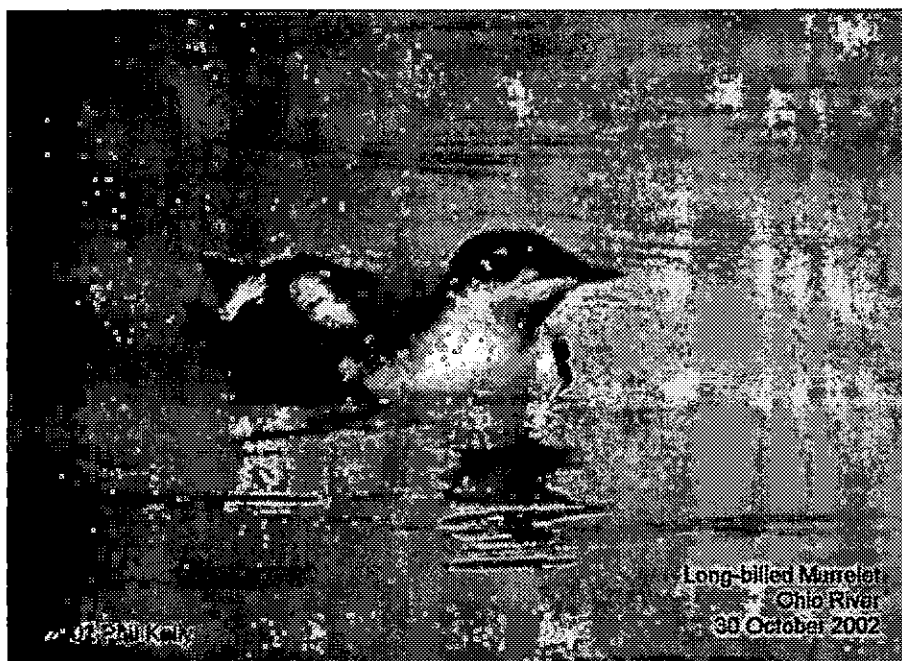
The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol.79

FEBRUARY 2003

No. 1



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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Phil Kelly for the cover photograph of the Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*), taken on the Ohio River off the Louisville waterfront on October 30, 2003 (see Fall 2002 Seasonal Report).

THE FALL MIGRATION – 2002

Fred M. Busroe

The fall season 2002 was wet overall, but it began with much of the state in severe drought. In contrast, September and October were the wettest in 107 years. The temperature was cyclic, warm and then cold. On November 10 strong storms swept across the state and November 22 was cold with snow flurries.

Perhaps in part due to the odd weather conditions, a number of unusual observations were recorded. Potential first records for the state included Sooty Terns at Kentucky Lake and on the lower Ohio River, McCracken County, a Long-billed Murrelet on the Ohio River at Louisville, and a Common Ground-Dove near Lake No. 9 in western Fulton County. Additional especially notable observations included a Western Grebe on Lake Cumberland, a Hudsonian Godwit at the Falls of the Ohio at Louisville, and no less than three Rufous Hummingbirds. Peak movements (or at least fall-outs) of passerine migrants (most notably warblers) seemed to occur September 15 and September 21-22.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted as records for the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Observers are cautioned that records of out-of-season birds and all rarities must be accompanied with good details or documentation for acceptance. Documentation must be submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; A.J. Jolly = A.J. Jolly Park, *Campbell*; Annis = Annis Ferry Farm, *Butler*; Barren = Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren*; BRSRP = Barren River State Resort Park, *Barren*; Beech Grove = Beech Grove Ridge, *Pulaski*; Bellevue = Bellevue, *Campbell*; Blood R. = Blood River embayment of Kentucky Lake, *Calloway*; Bowling Green = Bowling Green, *Warren*; Brown = Brown Power Plant, *Mercer*; Camp#11 = Peabody Camp Mine #11, *Union*; Caperton = Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*; Cave Run = Cave Run Lake, *Rowan*; Drakes = West Fork Drakes Creek, *Simpson*; Falls = Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Fishing Creek = Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*; Green = Green River Lake, *Taylor/Adair*; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky Lake, *Marshall*; Ken-Homestead = Ken-Homestead Unit of Peabody WMA, *Ohio*; KyBend = Kentucky Bend, *Fulton*; KyDam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; KyLake = Kentucky Lake, *Marshall/Calloway*; LkBarkley = Lake Barkley, *Livingston/Lyon/Trigg*; Laketon = Mississippi River sandbars near Laketon boat ramp, *Carlisle*; LkCum = Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski/Russell/Wayne*; Lk#9 = Lake #9, *Fulton*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon/Trigg*; Louisville = Louisville, *Jefferson*; Markland = Markland Dam on the Ohio River, *Gallatin*; McElroy = McElroy Lake, *Warren*; Meldahl = Meldahl Dam on the Ohio River, *Bracken*; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*; Mt. Zion = Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, *Edmonson/Hart*; Middle Creek = Middle Creek Park, *Boone*; Peabody = Peabody WMA, *Ohio/Muhlenberg*; Petersburg = Petersburg, *Boone*; Owensboro = Owensboro, *Daviess*; Pleasant Hill = Pleasant Hill Church Road near Cadiz, *Trigg*; Red R. Gorge = Red River Gorge Geological Area, *Powell/Wolfe*; Riverqueen = Riverqueen Unit of Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; RRSRP = Rough River State Resort Park, *Grayson*; Short Creek = Short Creek, *Grayson*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*;

Sinclair = Sinclair Unit of Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; Smithland = Smithland Dam on the Ohio River, *Livingston*; Waitsboro = Lake Cumberland at Waitsboro Recreation Area, *Pulaski*; WKU = Western Kentucky University, *Warren*.

Red-throated Loon – 1 was reported on November 18 at Lake Peewee, *Hopkins* (PN).

Pacific Loon – 1 was reported on KyLake above KyDam on November 24 (BY). KBRC review required.

Common Loon – Certainly unusual was a bird on a farm pond near Mt. Zion, Aug 2-6 (RD); 1 on September 29 on Cave Run was likely an early migrant (SM); a normal November movement was highlighted by an exceptionally pronounced peak fallout of birds on the November 16; notable reports included an early peak of 49 on November 3 on Barren (JE); 800+ on November 16 on Barren (DR); 75+ total in scattered flocks on November 17 on Green (BPB); 30 on November 19 at Waitsboro (RD); and 150+ on November 26 on Barren (DR). Also reported were 2 on October 30 on Ohio R. at Louisville (FR); and 3 on Ohio R., *Gallatin*, 2 on Ohio R. at Big Bone Creek, *Boone*, and 1 on Ohio R. at Petersburg, all on November 16 (LM).

Horned Grebe – First reported on October 13 at Blood R. (HC); typical peak of fall movement occurred during mid- to late November as evidenced by 210+ on November 16 on Barren (DR); also reported were 8 on October 31 on Ohio R. at Louisville (JP); 11 on November 16 on Ohio R., *Gallatin*, and 1 on November 23 at Meldahl (LM); 10 on November 17 on Cave Run (FB); 28 on November 16 on the Ohio R., *Daviess/Hancock* line (DA); and 70 on November 27 at Waitsboro (RD).

Red-necked Grebe – There were two reports of single birds as follows: 1 on November 3 at Brown (BC/MC photos); and 1 adult on November 13 on KyLake above KyDam (DR video). KBRC review required.

Western Grebe – 1 bird was present November 6-30 at Waitsboro (RD, BPB photos). KBRC review required.

American White Pelican – The presence of probable summering birds along the Mississippi R. blended into a now-typical fall movement of birds across the western quarter of the state including the Mississippi R. corridor and KyLake/LkBarkley. Peak counts included: 220+ on August 21 over Laketon (DR); 200+ on August 22 at KyBend (DR); and 125 on September 1 at the south end of Lk#9 (BY); later in the season, the first birds (ca. 12) showed up on October 4 on LkBarkley, *Lyon* (DR); and 150+ were seen on November 13 over west *Fulton* (DR). Also reported were 26 on August 25 at Lk#9 (BL, KL); 18 on October 27 in *Fulton* (HC); 75 on November 2 at Open Pond, *Fulton* (KL); and 100+ on November 27 at LkBarkley (JE). Away from western Kentucky, a single bird was present on November 26 on Barren, *Allen* (DR photos).

Double-crested Cormorant – There did not seem to be an exceptionally large movement through the state this fall or perhaps it went unreported in detail. The exception appeared to be a flight (number unreported) on October 26 over LkBarkley, *Trigg* (DR). Also reported were 150 on August 17 at KyLake and 6 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC); 7 on September 12/14 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 35 on October 26 in *Calloway* and 65 on October 27 in *Fulton* (HC); and 120 on October 30 on Ohio R. at Louisville (FR).

American Bittern – Peak count of presumed fall migrants (it is possible that nesting is occurring in marshes in the general vicinity) was 4 birds at one location at Ken-Homestead on September 25 (DR); otherwise, single birds were reported from several scattered localities during typical fall flight period; most interesting records were of a bird at McElroy on October 13 (DR) and a lingering bird to at least November 9 at Kentucky R. WMA, *Henry* (TS).

Great Blue Heron – A high number of 52 on October 29 at Jonathan Creek (MM).

Great Egret – Post-breeding concentrations in far western Kentucky remained below the highs of the late 1990s, but included ca. 600 at Lk#9 on August 24 (BPB, AC) and 550+ there on August 25 (KL, NM). Elsewhere some relatively significant numbers were reported as follows: 125 on August 17 on a floodplain slough in western *Henderson* (BPB/KOS); 32 on September 3 in LBL, *Trigg* (WL); a count of 20 on August 31 at the Falls was the largest number reported in the Louisville area in many years (BPB, *et al.*); and 62 on September 14 at Swan Lake WMA, *Ballard* (CM/DCCAS). 2 lingered at Paint Lick Creek off the Ohio R., *Gallatin*, November 11-16 (LM) and 1 was still in west *Fulton* on November 23 (HC, RD). Also reported were 4 on August 3 at Fishing Creek (RD); 7 on August 29 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 8 on August 31 at MCFH (LM); 15 on September 7 at Blood R. and 1 on October 24 at Jonathan Creek (HC); and 7 on September 27 at MCFH (FB).

Snowy Egret – As is typically the case, the peak post-breeding concentration occurred at Lk#9, where at least 260 were counted (with likely more than 300 present) on August 24 (BPB, AC). Also reported were 44 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD) and 1 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC).

Little Blue Heron – The peak count during the late nesting/post-breeding period at the LkBarkley heronry near Kuttawa, *Lyon*, was 100+ (perhaps 200) on July 30 (DR); relatively unusual for the east Knobs region was an immature at MCFH on August 29 (MV), August 31 (LM/NKBC), September 29 (SM) and October 5 (FB). Latest fall report was 1 on Oct 13 at Blood R. (HC). Also reported were 6 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD); and 1 August 29-30 at Jonathan Creek (MM).

Cattle Egret – The peak count during the late nesting/post-breeding period at the LkBarkley heronry near Kuttawa, *Lyon*, was “several thousand” on July 30 (DR); a post-breeding wanderer appeared at a farm pond near Dot, *Logan*, on August 29 (FL).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 1 on September 20 at A.J. Jolly (FR); 1 on October 3 in Louisville (MS).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 1 juv. was observed at Jonathan Creek August 27-31 (DR); the species was last reported (1 juv.) on the relatively late date of October 20 at Sauerheber at a location where the species had likely bred nearby during summer (DR/KOS).

Black Vulture – 64 on September 9 at Fishing Creek (RD); 15 on September 27 at Short Creek (JP); 22 on October 9 at Barren (JE); 2 on November 23 in *Fulton* (HC, RD).

Greater White-fronted Goose – First fall birds (flock of 90-100) were observed flying over Smithland on October 26 (DR, HC); 2 were seen near Woodburn, *Warren*, November 19/21 (DR); numbers were also present in extreme west *Fulton* by the last week of November, when 417 were counted on November 24 near Lk#9 (RD, HC, *et al.*).

Snow Goose – A likely injured bird (that likely summered) was present at Mitchell Lake, Ballard WMA, *Ballard*, on August 2 (HC); certainly unusual was a free-flying white morph on KyLake, *Calloway*, on August 17 (HC photos). The first sizable flocks of 75 and 78 birds were noted in west *Fulton* on November 23/24, respectively (HC, RD, *et al.*).

Ross's Goose – 3 individuals were carefully identified from within a flock of Snow Geese passing over west *Fulton* on November 24 (DR, *et al.*). This record represents a new early fall arrival date for Kentucky by one day.

Mute Swan – The apparently resident pair along Cypress Creek, northwest of Central City, *Muhlenberg*, was observed in mid-September and continued through the period (WR).

Wood Duck – 13 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC); 20 on September 20 at A.J. Jolly (FR); 86 on September 26 on LkCumb (RD); 6 on November 23 in *Fulton* (HC, RD).

Gadwall – First reported were 2 on August 27 on KyLake, *Calloway* (DR) and 5 on August 31 at Jonathan Creek (MM). Also reported were 50 on October 31 at the Falls (JP); 17 on

- November 16 at Sugar Creek, *Gallatin* (LM); and ca. 65 on November 11–30 at Goose Pond, Cave Run (FB).
- American Wigeon** – First reported was 1 bird on KyLake, on August 27 (DR); also reported were 50+ on October 28 at Goose Pond, Cave Run (FB).
- Blue-winged Teal** – 36 on August 25 at Lk#9 (KL, NM); 90 on September 3 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 4 on September 11 at LBL (PL, WL); and 74 on September 21 in *McCreary* (SBC).
- Northern Shoveler** – Peak fall count was 150+ at Lk#9 on November 13 (DR); also reported were 9 on September 1 at Lk#9 (KL); 1 on September 3 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 2 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC) and 75 on November 1 on *Fulton* (HC, RD); and 15 on November 27 at Waitsboro (RD).
- Northern Pintail** – A female (early returning migrant?) was present near Ledbetter, *Livingston*, on August 5 (DR).
- Green-winged Teal** – 84 on November 18 at Meldahl (FR).
- Redhead** – 43 on November 17 at Waitsboro (RD).
- Ring-necked Duck** – A drake that summered on an impoundment at Camp#11 was observed on September 7 (BPB, RH) and September 15 (BPB, RL); the peak count during the height of the migratory movement was ca. 300 on November 17 at Waitsboro (RD, SS); also reported were 10 on November 11 at Goose Pond, Cave Run (FB).
- Surf Scoter** – An excellent movement was documented throughout typical late October through mid-November flight patterns as evidenced by the following reports: 2 on the Ohio R. at Louisville on October 29 (MS, *et al.*); separate groups of 2 and 3 on the Ohio R. at Louisville on October 30; separate groups of 1 and 9 on the Ohio R. at Louisville on October 31 (BPB, *et al.*); 6 on the Ohio R. at Louisville and 4 above Markland, both on November 1; 1 at Waitsboro on November 1 (RD); 1 at MCFH on November 2 (GR); 1 on the Ohio R. at Louisville on November 2 (PN); 1 on Ohio R. at Louisville on November 3 (BPB); 3 on the Ohio R. near Big Bone on November 3 (BPB); 3 on the Ohio R. near Big Bone on November 17 (RD); 4 on Green, *Taylor*, on November 17 (BPB); 1 at Meldahl on November 18 (FR); 2 above Meldahl on November 23 (LM); 2 on November 27 (FR); and 2 at Meldahl on November 29 (FR).
- White-winged Scoter** – Single birds were reported during peak of fall movement as follows: 1 female on the Ohio R. at Louisville on October 29 (DR); 1 at Sinclair on November 2 (RLr photos); 1 on November 19 (DR video).
- Black Scoter** – A small but notable movement occurred during late October through mid-November as evidenced by the following reports (all except the *Daviess/Hancock* similar or greater numbers of Surfs): 2 on the Ohio R. at Louisville on October 29 (DR, *et al.*); 3 above Markland on November 1 (DR); 1 on the Ohio R. at Louisville on November 16 (DA); 4 on Green, *Taylor*, on November 17 (BPB).
- Long-tailed Duck** – 1 female observed on KyLake above KyDam on November 24 (BY).
- Bufflehead** – 48 on November 17 at Waitsboro (RD).
- Hooded Merganser** – 3 on October 28 at Jonathan Creek (PL, WL); 15 on November 17 at MCFH (FB).
- Common Merganser** – A probable female was observed several times on KyLake above KyDam from September through the end of the period (ob.).
- Red-breasted Merganser** – Peak count was 150+ were on November 17 at Waitsboro (RD).

Ruddy Duck – A bird was present at Camp #11 on September 7; it is unknown if this was a summering bird or early migrant. Also reported during normal fall migratory period as follows: 10 on October 31 on Ohio R. at Louisville (JP); 17 on November 17 at Waitsboro (RD); 4 on November 18 and 3 on November 29 at Meldahl (FR).

Osprey – A relatively early migrant or post-breeding wanderer was observed near RRSRP on August 8/22 (JP); also reported were single birds in *Taylor* on October 2 (MS) and at Fishing Creek on October 6 (RD); last reported bird was 1 at the dam at Barren on October 28 (JE).

Mississippi Kite – The last of MANY extralimital reports from the late spring/summer season were 2 observed flying over Tom Sawyer State Park, east *Jefferson*, on August 18 (JB, PB). Latest report of the species in far western Kentucky was 3 on September 8 at KyBend (KL).

Bald Eagle – Relatively unusual for eastern Kentucky was a bird at Red R. Gorge, *Powell*, on September 29 (DR, JR). Also reported were 2 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD); 1 on August 31 at MCFH (LM); 5 imms. on September 25 at KyBend (KL); 1 on October 8 at LkCumb (LM); 1 on November 1 at Waitsboro (RD); 2 adults and 2 imms. on November 18 at Meldahl (FR); and 1 to 2 during period at MCFH (FB).

Northern Harrier – 2 on October 23 at Cooley's Pond, *Wayne* (RD).

Sharp-shinned Hawk – 2 on August 21 and 1 on November 28 in *Barren* (MS).

Cooper's Hawk – 1 on August 20 and October 29 in *Barren* (MS); 1 on September 7 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 1 on September 16 and November 25 in *Hart* (MS); 1 was seen taking a Dunlin on October 30 at MCFH (FB); 1 on November 20 at Short Creek (JP).

Broad-winged Hawk – Peak fall counts were 131 in several flocks on September 21 and another 177 in several flocks (including one kettle of 125 birds) on September 22, both counts being made at Peabody (MV, MG). Also reported were 5 on September 8 at KyBend (KL).

Red-tailed Hawk – 6 on September 25 at KyBend (KL); 1 dark morph on November 2 at East Bend Power Plant, *Boone* (LM); 2 (1 almost entirely white) on November 14 at Hogue, *Pulaski* (RD); 27 on November 24 in *Fulton* (HC, DR).

Rough-legged Hawk – First report of a returning winter resident was of a bird at Sinclair on November 3 (MV, MG).

Golden Eagle – Relatively unusual was an apparently migrant adult on November 27 at Woodburn, *Warren* (DR video).

American Kestrel – Relatively late was the presence of 3 large young in a nest box in east *Jefferson* on August 9 (unfortunately these young were found dead in the box about a week later – probably due to West Nile Virus).

Merlin – An above-average number of reports of migrants and apparently returning winter residents included two relatively early sightings, 1 at KyBend on August 25 (KL, NM) and 1 at Louisville on August 28 (BY); also reported were 1 at Lake Reba, *Madison*, on September 18 (MV); 1 over Sinclair on September 21 (MV, MG); singles at McElroy on October 2/24 (DR); 1 at Chaney Lake, *Warren*, on October 22 (DR); 1 in *Trigg* on November 1 (WL); 1 at Riverqueen on November 2 (MV, MG); 1 at Ken-Homestead on November 12 (MG); and 1 at Sinclair on November 24 (BY).

Peregrine Falcon – There were more than a dozen reports of migrants and resident birds at scattered localities across much of central and western Kentucky during the period including 1 on August 25 and November 8 at KyBend (KL) and the nesting pair at the power plant near Ghent, *Carroll*, on November 2 (LM).

Prairie Falcon – 1 was reported on August 28 at KyBend (KL, NM). This would be about ten weeks earlier than previous Kentucky records. KBRC review required.

Virginia Rail – 3 on October 23 at Ken-Homestead were the only ones reported (DR).

Common Moorhen – 3 that appeared to be juveniles and were perhaps locally raised were observed at Camp #11 September 1-15 (BPB, *et al.*); a migrant was observed near Petersburg on October 5 (LM).

American Coot – Lingered nesting birds were observed at Camp #11 on several dates in August and September (BPB, *et al.*).

Sandhill Crane – A pronounced flight occurred slightly earlier than in recent years, with a peak during late November; the highest count was 950+ resting on flats of Barren, Allen, on November 26 (DR); also reported were 3 at Cooley's Pond, Wayne, and 55 in Adair on November 2 (RD); an unknown number overhead on the night of November 17 and 90+ on November 18 in Hart (MS); and 200 on November 25 at Short Creek (JP).

Black-bellied Plover – 1 on August 16 at Brown (RD).

American Golden-Plover – The peak fall count was 7 at McElroy on October 23 (DR); 1 lingered there to November 21 (DR); also reported was 1 on October 5 at MCFH (FB).

Semipalmated Plover – 3 on August 3 at Fishing Creek (RD); 16 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD); 4 on September 1 at Lk #9 (KL); 5 on September 17 at Jonathan Creek (MM); the latest report was of a single bird at McElroy on October 14 (DR).

Piping Plover – Only fall report was of a single adult (photographed) on a bar on KyLake, Calloway, on August 17 (HC).

Killdeer – Peak fall count was 720+ at McElroy on November 21 (DR); the peak at Jonathan Creek was 100+ on September 7 (MM).

Black-necked Stilt – Following a spring and summer during which birds showed up at a number of localities scattered across the midwest, a few birds were reported during what apparently represents the species' fall migratory period as follows: 1 adult near Ledbetter, Livingston, on August 5 (DR photos); a juv. at the same location on August 18 (DR photos); 2 adults at Laketon on August 21 (DR); 4 (migrant family group) at KyBend on August 22 (DR); birds were present at Lk #9 from August 22 (5 – DR) to September 2 (6-DR), with impressive peak counts of 19 at the south end of the lake on August 24 (BPB, AC) and September 1 (KL). The Livingston and Carlisle records represent the first documented for those counties.

Greater Yellowlegs – 2 on October 24 at Jonathan Creek and 4 on October 27 in Fulton (HC); 10-13 on October 28-31 at MCFH (FB); 2 at Lick Creek, Boone, on November 2 (LM); a few individuals lingered into mid-November as follows: 7 in west Fulton on November 13 (DR); 1 at Somerset, Pulaski, on November 17 (RD); 1 at Jonathan Creek on November 19 (MM); 2 at Walton's Pond near Woodburn, Warren, on November 21 (DR); 2 in west Fulton on November 23 (HC, RD); and 2 at Sinclair on November 28 (MV).

Lesser Yellowlegs – Peak fall count was 99 at Lk #9 on September 14 (CM/DCAS); also reported were 1 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD); 2 on August 25 at Lk #9 (KL, NM); 12 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC); 16 on October 27 in Fulton (HC); 40+ on September 12 at Jonathan Creek (MM); and 2 on September 14 at KyBend (KL, BL).

Solitary Sandpiper – 4 on August 5 at A.J. Jolly (FR); 3 on September 1 at Lk #9 (KL); 6 on September 6 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 2 on October 8 at Fishing Creek (RD).

Willet – 1 bird was present on August 30 on the Little R. embayment of LkBarkley, Trigg (DR).

Spotted Sandpiper – Relatively late birds were observed as follows: 3 at Fishing Creek on October 26 (RD) and 1 at the Falls on November 6 (BPB). Also reported were the following: 9 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD); 2 on August 17 at KyLake, Calloway (HC); and 1 to 2 were present on September 7-12 at Jonathan Creek (MM).

- Upland Sandpiper** – A small movement was detected as evidenced by 2 reports: 1 heard calling over east *Jefferson* on August 18 (BPB); 1 heard calling at KyBend on September 14 (DR).
- Hudsonian Godwit** – A juv. resting at the Falls on October 31 represents only the fourth documented record for the species in Kentucky (DR photos, *et al.*). KBRC review required.
- Marbled Godwit** – Relatively extraordinary were 2 birds on a relatively late date of September 17 on sandbars below Smithland (DR photos, JE). KBRC review required.
- Ruddy Turnstone** – A small movement was detected during mid- to late August as evidenced by the following reports: 1 adult on August 17 at Camp #11 (BPB/KOS); 1 on August 17 on a bar in KyLake, *Calloway* (HC); 1 adult on August 18 at the Falls (BPB); and 1 on August 22 at KyBend (DR).
- Sanderling** – 2 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, DR) and 4 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC); 2 on September 16–17 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 4 on October 30 at MCFH (EM).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper** – Peak fall count reported was an unimpressive 22 birds at Lk #9 on September 1 (KL); also reported were 3 on August 3 at Fishing Creek (RD); 16 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD); 2 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC); 19 on August 28 at KyBend (KL, NM); and 1 to 2 present at Jonathan Creek August 31–September 16 (MM).
- Western Sandpiper** – Unimpressive peak counts included 6 on August 4 at Brown (RD) and 5 juvs. on September 7 at Camp #11 (BPB, RH); also reported were 2 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD) and 2 on August 28 at Fishing Creek (RD).
- Least Sandpiper** – Perhaps a below-average migration this season; peak fall count was 368 on September 14 at Lk #9 (CM/DCAS); a few lingered into mid-November at several localities (m. ob.); also reported were 83 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD); 4 on August 17 at KyLake (HC); 60 on August 28 at KyBend (KL, NM); 36 on September 1 at Lk #9 (KL); 40+ on September 12 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 33 on September 16 and 2 on October 26 at Fishing Creek (RD); 78 on September 25 at KyBend (KL); 15 on October 24 at Jonathan Creek (HC); and 20 on October 24 in *Fulton* (HC).
- Baird's Sandpiper** – 2 on August 31 at MCFH (LM); 1 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD); 2 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC).
- Pectoral Sandpiper** – Last fall report was from McElroy on November 7 (DR); also reported were 79 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD); 80 on September 1 at Lk #9 (KL); 15 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC); and 15 on September 17 at Jonathan Creek (MM).
- Dunlin** – Noteworthy concentrations were noted during late October and early November with peak counts of 200+ at MCFH on October 29–31 (FB, EM); 151 at McElroy on October 24 (DR); at least 138 at McElroy on October 22 (DR); and two flocks totaling 136 individuals at the Falls on October 29 (DR); also reported were ten on October 24 at Jonathan Creek (HC); 2 to 3 were present October 25–November 11 at Camp Ernst Lake, *Boone* (LM); 23 on October 28 at Fishing Creek (RD); 79 on October 29, 99 on November 11, 58 on November 19 and 23 on November 24 at Jonathan Creek (MM); and 8 on November 23 in *Fulton* (HC, RD).
- Stilt Sandpiper** – Relatively far east were single individuals at Creelsboro, *Russell*, on September 7 (SBC) and at Fishing Creek on October 8 (RD); peak fall counts included 19 at KyBend on August 11 (HC, *et al.*); 13 at Jonathan Creek on September 5 (DR); and 11+ birds at McElroy on October 13 (DR).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper** – First reported on August 30 on the Little R. embayment of LkBarkley, *Trigg* (DR); generally a below-average movement was detected during early to mid-September, although a count of 18 on September 7 at Blood R. represented an impressive total (HC); small numbers also were reported from several additional loca-

tions including 3 on September 7 at Camp #11 (BPB,RH) and 2 on September 8 at Laketon (BPB) with 1 bird as far east as Mt. Zion on September 7 (RD); last observed on September 17/19 at Jonathan Creek (MM/HC).

Short-billed Dowitcher – 1 on August 18 at Brown (RD); 1 on September 8 at KyBend (KL).

Long-billed Dowitcher – What must be considered to represent probably a typical movement of the species when observers are out and habitat is present was evidenced by the following reports: 1 adult at Meng's Pond, *Warren*, on August 14 (DR photos); a flock of varying sizes from 24+ on October 13 to 12 on October 24 at McElroy (TD, DR); 4 at Sauerheber on October 20 (DR/KOS); 2 at Sauerheber and 1 at Camp#11, both on October 27 (BPB, BY, MS); and 1 bird at Lk#9 on the relatively late date of November 13 (DR).

Wilson's Snipe – First fall report was 1 bird at Blood R. on September 4 (HC); peak count of fall migrants was 98 in west *Fulton* on November 23 (HC, RD); also reported were 2 on November 1 at LBL (PL, WL) and 4 on November 24 at Jonathan Creek (MM).

Wilson's Phalarope – A juv. on August 3 at Fishing Creek was likely a first county record (RD).

Red-necked Phalarope – A juv. was at McElroy on October 14 (DR video). KBRC review required.

phalarope sp. – Another phalarope at McElroy on October 20 was likely a Red-necked or Red, but its identity was not confirmed (TD).

Laughing Gull – 1 to 5 birds were present in the vicinity of Kentucky/Barkley/Smithland dams during most of the period, at least some perhaps lingering birds from summer reports in the same area: 1 on bars below Smithland on August 5 (DR); 2 first-year birds below Smithland and 1 adult at KyDam on September 8 (HC, DR); 4 at KyDam on September 13 (DR); at least 4 on September 17 (at least 2 above KyDam and 2 below Smithland) (JE, DR) and September 20 (1 on KyLake and 3 below Smithland) (DR); peak count of 5 on KyLake, *Marshall*, on October 4 (DR); with at least 2 lingering into late November on KyLake (DR, WL, *et al.*). Also, an adult was observed on the Ohio R. at Louisville on November 1 (DR).

Franklin's Gull – A modest movement occurred during typical late September-November period as evidenced by the following reports: 1 on KyLake above KyDam on September 29 (HC); at least 4 on KyLake, *Marshall*, on October 4 (DR); 1 at Jonathan Creek on October 5/22 (HC) and again on November 11 (MM); 6+ on KyLake above KyDam on October 11 (DR, RDv); 4 on KyLake above KyDam on October 14 (HC); 2 at Meldahl on October 26 (NKBC); 1 below Smithland and 2 on KyLake above KyDam on October 26 (DR); 2 at the Falls on October 29 (DR); 1 at Markland on November 1 (DR); and 2 on Barren on November 4 (DR).

Bonaparte's Gull – First reported on August 30 at Brown (RD photo) and on September 22 at Fishing Creek (RD); the species was scattered in small numbers by the last week or so of October (m. ob.); peak count was 900+ at Meldahl on November 18 (FR); also reported were 60+ on November 24 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 100 on November 16 at Craig's Creek, *Gallatin* (LM); and 300+ on November 29 at Meldahl (LM).

Ring-billed Gull – 2 hundred on October 3-4 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 250 on November 18 at Meldahl (FR).

Herring Gull – First reported were a few (summering birds or early migrants) on August 17 on KyLake, *Calloway* (HC) and 1 juv. on August 22 below Smithland (DR). Also reported were 1 on October 4 and November 11 at Jonathan Creek (MM) and 4 on November 18 at Meldahl (FR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – A first-summer bird was seen on the IL side of the Ohio R. downstream from Smithland on August 8 (BPB, PBn, BvH); first of the season actually in Kentucky was a second-year bird below Smithland on September 8 (DR); by September 20, 3 adults were reported from KyLake (DR); 1 was at Jonathan Creek on October 3 (HC, MM).

Sabine's Gull – A nice flurry of reports of juvs., perhaps involving at least some of the same individuals, occurred during September to early October (reminiscent of the fall of 1984) as follows: 1 on LkBarkley, *Lyon* on September 11 (DR photos); then 2 on KyLake above KyDam September 14-20 (DR video, HC, *et al.*); finally, 1 on KyLake near Little Bear Creek, *Marshall*, on October 4 (DR video). KBRC review required.

Caspian Tern – Peak fall counts included 200 on LkBarkley between the dam and Kuttawa, *Lyon*, on September 11 (DR); 130 on a bar on LkBarkley near Kuttawa, *Lyon*, on August 22 (DR); and 20+ at the Paradise Steam Plant slurry pond, *Muhlenberg*, on August 25 (MV). Also reported were 15 on August 10 at Laketon (HC, RD) and 4 on September 22 at Fishing Creek (RD).

Common Tern – Quite unusual for southcentral Kentucky was a flock of *ca.* 40 at Fishing Creek on September 22 (RD). Otherwise, only small numbers were reported with most from the western quarter of the state (m. ob.) with peak counts being at least 15 on KyLake, *Marshall*, on October 4 (DR) and 13 below Smithland on October 11 (DR, RDv); latest report was of several birds at Jonathan Creek on October 24 (HC).

Forster's Tern – A record Kentucky count was reported at Jonathan Creek during late October, when about 300 (260 in one area) were counted on October 26 (DR, HC); at least 200 were still present at this location on November 9 (HC); 2 were near Waitsboro on November 16 (RD); a few lingered on the Ohio R. at Louisville longer than normal; 1 was last seen there on November 17 (BPB). Also reported were 2 on August 17 at KyDam (HC) and 20 on September 22 at Fishing Creek (RD).

Least Tern – The species apparently had a much better year of it than in 2001. Many flying young were observed at traditional sites along the Mississippi R., *Carlisle/Hickman*, on August 24 (BPB, AC); *ca.* 500+ were observed on sandbars at KyBend on August 11 (HC).

Sooty Tern – One of the most interesting finds of a spectacular fall for rarities had to be the appearance of no less than 3, and perhaps 4 individuals of this pelagic species during the passage of the remnants of hurricane Lili, on the afternoon of October 4. 2 adults were observed over KyLake from KyDam (DR video) and possibly a third adult was seen later in the day over KyLake near the mouth of Little Bear Creek, *Marshall* (DR); also, 1 adult was observed along the Ohio R. shoreline at the Joppa, IL, boat ramp, and subsequently flying out over the river upstream towards Paducah, *McCracken* (FBT). KBRC review required.

Black Tern – Peak fall count was *ca.* 50 on August 17 on KyLake, *Calloway* (HC); also reported were 5 on August 15 at Mt. Zion (RD); *ca.* 20 on August 18 at the Falls (BPB); and 12 at Brown on August 18 (RD).

Long-billed Murrelet – This small alcid from eastern Asia has been reported with greater and greater regularity in North America, including the eastern United States, especially since it was elevated to species status in the early 1990s. An individual was found on Ohio R. at Louisville on October 29 (DR video) and subsequently observed by nearly 100 people later that day and on October 30 (PK photos, JMc photos, CO photos). KBRC review required.

Eurasian Collared-Dove – 1 to 8 birds were reported daily during the period on the *Barren/Hart* line – a new location for the species (MS); and 2 were seen on October 26 in

Calloway (HC).

Common Ground-Dove – A bird was found on November 23 near Lk #9 (HC, RD photos; DR photos) where it lingered to at least November 30 (JW, MGn). KBRC review required.

Black-billed Cuckoo – A few reports of fall migrants included single birds at MCNP on September 15 (JE) and Honker Lake, LBL, *Trigg*, on September 29 (KL).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – A bird was observed gathering nest material near Island No. 1, *Carlisle*, on August 24 (BPB); a late lingering bird was observed at the Waitsboro Recreation Area, *Pulaski*, on November 9 (AC, BPB); also reported were 2 on August 26 and September 5 at Annis (DT); 7 on August 28 at KyBend (KL, NM); 8 on September 15 at MCNP (JE); and 1 on October 9 at Drakes (JE).

Barn Owl – 1 in rural eastern *Calloway* in late October (JTE, HC).

Eastern Screech-Owl – 1 on August 9/30 in *Hart* (MS); 1 on August 12, 24 and 30 at Short Creek (JP); 1 calling on August 29 and 2 on September 5 at Bellevue (FR); 1 on October 11 at LBL (PL, WL).

Great Horned Owl – 1 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC).

Barred Owl – 1 on August 30 at Annis (DT); 1 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC); and 1 on October 24 at Jonathan Creek (HC).

Short-eared Owl – Returning winter birds were first reported at Sinclair on October 31 (MV) and on a reclaimed surface mine in *Boyd* on November 24 (SS).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – Only report for the fall was of a bird that vocalized with a contact call adjacent to Barren, *Barren*, on the night of November 12 (DR).

Common Nighthawk – Peak of fall migration passed largely without any noteworthy concentrations; peak counts reported were 200 over east *Jefferson* on August 29 (JB, PB) and 60 in Owensboro on August 31 (JP); latest reports were of a bird seen roosting at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, on October 23 (BBC); and TWO seen flying over Louisville on November 9 (MS).

Whip-poor-will – 3 on August 10 in *Grayson* (JP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – There were a number of reports of birds lingering into late October with the latest individuals being last seen on November 3 at Owensboro (MT) and November 15 at West Liberty, *Morgan* (ME photos). A leucistic individual was observed at a feeder near New Concord, *Calloway*, during early August (DSH, SW; DR photos); peak concentration was 50+ in *Trigg* on September 2 (DR).

Rufous Hummingbird – 3 birds were confirmed by capture and measurement by Chris Sloan as follows: October 22 – end of the period, 1 female outside of Danville, *Boyle*, (NE photos, GE); late October – end of the period, 1 immature male in south *Jefferson* (MS, DS, BPB photos); and November 15-30, an adult female south of Bowling Green, *Warren*, (JE photos, DE) that had been previously banded near Grayson, GA, in mid-January 2001 (fide CS). An unconfirmed, but seemingly adequately described adult male visited a yard near Smiths Grove, *Warren*, on August 28 (EL). KBRC review required.

Likely *Selasphorus* sp. – Another bird described as a *Selasphorus* was observed at Taylorsville, *Spencer*, in mid-November, but it was not confirmed (fide CS).

Red-headed Woodpecker – 7 on August 28 and September 25 at KyBend (KL, NM); 5 on September 2 in east *Jefferson* (BW).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – A few were reported during what is likely the peak in the species' fall migratory movement through the state in late August as follows: near Lk #9 on August 24 (BPB, AC); at Sinclair on August 26 (DR); and in *Calloway*, on August 27 (DR).

Eastern Wood-Pewee – A road-killed bird was observed near Barren, *Allen*, on November 6 (DR).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – A typically small, but noticeable movement was reported during mid-September to early October; earliest reported individuals were in east *Jefferson* on September 12 (JB, PB) and September 14 (BY); latest was 1 in east *Jefferson* on October 3 (BPB).

Acadian Flycatcher – Single birds were heard singing on 2 dates in early September in *Fulton* (BPB); 2 were still present on September 25 at KyBend (KL).

Alder Flycatcher – Distinctive call notes were heard from 1 bird observed near Island No. 1, *Carlisle*, and 2 observed near Lk#9, all on August 24 (BPB).

Least Flycatcher – 1 on September 8 at KyBend (KL).

Great Crested Flycatcher – Relatively late records included 1 on September 21 in *Trigg* (WL) and 1 on September 25 in *Pulaski* (RD). The identity of a *Myiarchus* flycatcher (thought to be a Great Crested) that was observed on October 15 along Fords Bay, LkBarkley, *Trigg*, was not confirmed (MEs).

Western Kingbird – A bird was reported on October 21 from the levee pumping pond at Hickman, *Fulton* (LA). KBRC review required.

Eastern Kingbird – There were several reports of birds a bit later than normal and including 4 in a flock on September 21 in *Trigg* (WL) and 1 that lingered to October 5 near Dot, *Logan* (FL).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – Young (3) of the Barkley Dam, *Lyon*, pair fledged during the first week of August (HC; m. ob.) and were present as a family group with parents through September 8 (BPB, RH); the only subsequent report of any birds was the observation of 2 thought to belong to the Barkley Dam family that were observed at the same location on the surprisingly late date of October 11 (DR, RDv).

Loggerhead Shrike – 2 on August 28 and September 25 at KyBend (KL, NM); 1 on September 20 at Pleasant Hill (PL, WL); 1 on October 25 in *Adair* (RD); 1 on October 27 (HC) and 3 on November 23 in *Fulton* (HC, RD).

Bell's Vireo – A bird was heard singing at Camp #11 on September 1 (BPB).

Blue-headed Vireo – Latest reports included 1 at Mt. Zion on October 31 (RD); 1 at WKU Woods on November 7 (JE); and an extraordinarily late bird at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, on November 30 (BJ, BBC).

Philadelphia Vireo – 1 on August 26 at Annis (DT) represents a new early fall KY date by one day; also reported was 1 on October 9 at Drakes (JE).

Fish Crow – 2 on August 27 and 31 with 1 still present on September 2 and 12 at Jonathan Creek (MM); 1 on August 28, 2 on September 8 and 3 on September 25 at KyBend (KL).

Horned Lark – A high of 120 on August 28 at KyBend (KL, NM); 25 on November 8 at the RRSRP airport (JP).

Purple Martin – 250 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC).

Tree Swallow – Latest reports included 50+ at MCFH on October 31 (FB); 5 at Jonathan Creek on November 1 (PL, WL); 3 at Fishing Creek on November 6 (RD); 9 at Barren on November 6 (DR) and 1 still there on November 9 (DR); peak count was 200+ on September 15 at KyBend (KL); also reported were 30 on September 7 at Blood R. (HC).

Bank Swallow – 6 on September 1 at Lk #9 (KL).

Barn Swallow – A few birds lingered later than normal as evidenced by the following reports: 1 at McElroy on October 22 (DR); and 1 at Barren November 6/9 (DR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch – NONE were reported all fall other than in the vicinity of the Red R. Gorge, *Wolfe*, breeding population (m. ob.).

Brown Creeper – 1 on November 1 and 2 on November 2 at Annis (DT).

Bewick's Wren – A convincing description was provided for 1 to 2 birds in east *Jefferson*, for more than a week, September 11-13/21-22 (BW); this represents the first report from

Jefferson in more than 20 years.

House Wren – 1 on October 25 in *Adair* (RD); 1 on November 1 in *Trigg* (PL, WL).

Sedge Wren – At least 3 birds were singing on the Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Union*, on August 17 (BPB/KOS); birds showed up in some fields of thick grass in east *Jefferson* in late July and subsequently bred successfully, with at least two broods of young observed in mid-September (BPB *et al.*).

Marsh Wren – Call notes of a bird were heard at Camp #11 on September 1 (BPB); peak fall counts included 12-15 at Sauerheber on October 20 (DR/KOS) and 7 at Peabody on October 7 (DR); also reported were 1 on October 7 at LkCum WMA (RD) and 1 on October 9 at Drakes (JE).

Golden-crowned Kinglet – 2 on September 14 at KyBend (KL, BL).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – The season's first noticeable wave was detected in LBL on October 11 (PL, WL).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – Relatively late was a bird at Caperton on October 27 (BY, MS, BPB).

Veery – 1 on September 7 at MCNP (JE); 1 on September 21 in *McCreary* (SBC).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – 1 on October 7 at Beech Grove (RD).

Swainson's Thrush – 1 on September 25 at Annis (DT); 2 on October 7 at Beech Grove (RD).

Northern Mockingbird – 16 on August 28 at KyBend (KL, NM).

American Pipit – First reported (1 bird at Fishing Creek) on September 23 (RD); peak reports included a few flocks of 100+ during latter October (m. ob.); also reported were 6 on October 14 at MCFH (FB) and 76 on November 24 at Lk#9 (KL, BL).

Cedar Waxwing – 150+ on September 27 at MCFH (FB); 25 on October 8 at Short Creek (JP).

Blue-winged Warbler – Latest lingering bird was observed on October 16 at Bowling Green (DR); this represents a new late departure date for Kentucky by two days; also reported were 2 on September 1 at Annis (DT).

Golden-winged Warbler – An impressive count of "5 or 6" was tallied in west *Jefferson* on September 12 (JB, PB); also reported were 3 on September 15 at MCNP (JE) and 1 on September 24 at Annis (DT).

Tennessee Warbler – Last observed as follows: Mt. Zion on October 31 (RD); Bowling Green on November 4 (JE); and Caperton on November 9 (BY, MS); also reported were 75+ on September 15 at Echo R. Spring area of MCNP (JE).

Orange-crowned Warbler – Fairly typical flight occurred as evidenced by the following reports: 1 at Caperton on September 18 (GL); 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, on September 21 (WL); 1 in *Warren* on October 13 (DR); "a few" in east *Jefferson* on October 14 (JB, PB); 1 at Pleasant Hill on October 18 (WL); 1 in *Henderson* on October 20 (DR/KOS); 1 in *Adair* on October 25 (RD); 1 in east *Jefferson* on October 27 (JB, PB); 1 at Barren on October 28 (JE); 1 below the dam at Barren on November 3 (JE).

Nashville Warbler – 6 on October 5 at WKU Woods (JE); 1 on October 13 at Mt. Zion (RD).

Northern Parula – Latest report was 1 on October 9 at Drakes (JE); also reported were 8 on September 3 at MCNP (JE).

Yellow Warbler – 2 were noted on the unusually late date of October 9 at Drakes (JE).

Chestnut-sided Warbler – 3 on September 12 at LBL (PL, WL); 1 on September 12/19 at Bellevue (FR); 1 on September 24 at Annis (DT).

Magnolia Warbler – 1 on September 12 and 19 at Bellevue (FR); 1 on September 30 at Annis (DT); 25+ on October 2 at BRSRP (JE); 15+ on October 5 at WKU Woods (JE).

Cape May Warbler - 3 on September 23 in *Campbell* (FR); 1 at a bird bath on October 12 in *Warren* (JE).

Black-throated Blue Warbler - A small, but noticeable movement occurred in mid-September when single birds were reported from no less than three locations in central Kentucky.

Yellow-rumped Warbler - First reported on September 22 near Dot, *Logan* (FL).

Black-throated Green Warbler - 10+ on October 2 at BRSRP (JE); 1 on October 23 at Drakes (JE).

Blackburnian Warbler - First fall arrival was 1 south of Bowling Green on 29 August (JE); relatively late was an individual in LBL, *Trigg*, on October 11 (WL); also reported were 3 on September 12 at LBL (PL, WL) and 2 on September 25 at LkCum WMA (RD).

Yellow-throated Warbler - 2 on August 28 at KyBend (KL, NM); 2 on September 2 at Annis (DT); 1 on September 21 in *McCreary* (SBC).

Pine Warbler - 2 on September 25 at KyBend (KL); 1 on September 30 at Annis (DT).

Prairie Warbler - 2 on September 21 in *McCreary* (RD).

Palm Warbler - A relatively late bird was still in east *Jefferson* on November 21 (JB); also reported were 1 on September 25 at KyBend (KL); 16 on October 12 at Pleasant Hill (PL, WL); 2 on November 1 in *Trigg* (PL, WL); and 1 on November 8 at RRSRP (JP).

Bay-breasted Warbler - 1 on September 25 at KyBend (KL); 2 on October 27 in *McCreary* (RD).

Blackpoll Warbler - This species occurs with some regularity in Kentucky in fall, but it is overlooked to some extent and is much more regular in the eastern part of the state. Single birds were reported from Red R. Gorge, *Powell*, on September 26 (DR) and at Bowling Green on October 13 (DR). The latter represents a new late departure date for the state by one day.

Cerulean Warbler - 1 on August 31 at Mt. Zion (RD); 1 on September 15 at MCNP (JE).

Black-and-White Warbler - 1 on August 31 at Annis (DT); 30+ on September 15 at MCNP (JE).

American Redstart - 1 on September 12 at Bellevue (FR); 10+ on September 15 at MCNP (JE); 1 on September 20 at Annis (DT); 3 on September 25 at KyBend (KL); 1 on October 13 at Mt. Zion (RD).

Prothonotary Warbler - 1 on August 26/30 at Annis (DT); 2 on September 2 at KyBend (KL, BL); 1 on September 11 at LkCumb WMA (RD).

Ovenbird - A freshly window-killed bird was found in downtown Louisville on November 11 (BY).

Northern Waterthrush - The first returning fall migrant was a bird observed at Louisville on August 7 (JB, PB), representing a new early fall date for Kentucky by a single day; another or the same individual was also observed on August 9 (JB, PB); also reported was 1 on October 9 at Drakes (JE).

Kentucky Warbler - 1 on August 28 at KyBend (KL, BL); 2 on September 2 at Annis (DT); 1 on September 11 at LkCumb WMA (RD).

Connecticut Warbler - Single birds (perhaps the same individual) were observed at Caperton on September 14 (BY) and September 18 (GL).

Mourning Warbler - Latest of several reports during normal migratory period were single birds on October 1 at LBL (WL, PL) and October 7 in east *Jefferson* (JB, PB).

Hooded Warbler - 3 on September 21 in *McCreary* (RD).

Wilson's Warbler - 1 on September 2 at Middle Creek (LM).

Canada Warbler - Certainly a record early fall date away from breeding areas in southeast Kentucky was a single bird at Louisville on August 5 (JB, PB); last reported at Bowling

Green on October 1 (DR); also reported were 1 on August 28 LkCum WMA (RD); 1 on September 2 at Middle Creek (LM); and 2 on September 7 at MCNP (JE).

Yellow-breasted Chat – Extraordinarily late was a bird observed in *Menifee* on September 29 (SM). There have been only about 6 sightings reported in the state later than this.

Summer Tanager – 1 on August 26 and 2 on September 2 at Annis (DT); 6 on September 8 and 5 on September 14 at KyBend (KL, BL); 1 on October 5 at Short Creek (JP); 1 on October 11 at LBL (WL).

Scarlet Tanager – 1 on October 13 at Mt. Zion (RD).

American Tree Sparrow – First reported on November 19 at a Bowling Green feeder (JE); 2 on November 21 at LBL (PL, WL).

Chipping Sparrow – Relatively impressive peak counts during fall migration included at least 125 in a single, loose flock in LBL, *Trigg*, on October 31 (WL) and more than 100 in *Trigg* on November 1 (WL). Also reported were 22 on September 30 and 25 on October 12 in *Campbell* (FR); 8 on October 24 at Short Creek (JP); 8 on November 3 at Annis (DT); and 43 on November 3 and 3 on November 22 at Mt. Zion (RD).

Clay-colored Sparrow – An imm. was reported on October 7 at Sinclair (DR). KBRC review required.

Vesper Sparrow – 1 on October 7 at Beech Grove (RD); 5 on October 24 at Mt. Zion (RD).

Savannah Sparrow – 30 on October 8 at Mt. Zion (RD).

Grasshopper Sparrow – Single lingering summer residents or migrants were observed near Mt. Zion on October 13 (RD) and at Ken-Homestead on October 23 (DR). Little is known of the timing of fall migration for this species.

Le Conte's Sparrow – The only report for the season was one on October 20 at Sauerheber (DR/KOS).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow – A few birds were reported during what appears to be the species' normal migratory period through the state as follows: 2 at Ken-Homestead on October 7 – one day earlier than the previous fall record (DR); 3 at Sauerheber on October 20 (DR/KOS).

Fox Sparrow – 1 on October 28 at Meldahl (LM); 2 on November 2 at Pleasant Hill (PL, WL).

Lincoln's Sparrow – Relatively late was a lingering bird in *Harrison* on November 16 (SM). Also reported were 2 on October 9 at Big Bone Lick State Park, *Boone* (LM); 4 on October 9 at Drakes (JE); 1 on October 15 at Bellevue (FR); first seen on October 18 and remained until November 1 at Pleasant Hill (PL, WL).

Swamp Sparrow – First observed on September 25 at Sinclair (DR); peak count during height of fall migratory movement was "at least 105" counted in a single wet area at LBL, *Trigg*, on October 25 (WL).

White-throated Sparrow – Extraordinarily early was a bird closely studied on August 28 and 30 at Lexington, *Fayette* (IS); this report establishes a new early fall arrival date for the state by three days; there are only a few reports before mid-September. The species was first seen in LBL on October 11 (PL, WL); 4 at feeding station in Bellevue on October 21 (FR); first seen at Short Creek on November 3 (JP).

White-crowned Sparrow – 20 on October 28 in *Campbell* (FR); a group of 50 was seen on November 2 in *Trigg* (PL, WL); 8 on November 20 at Short Creek (JP); 2 on November 26 and 11 on November 30 in *Hart* (MS).

Dark-eyed Junco – Possible individuals of the "pink-sided" race (*J. h. mearnsii*) were observed in *Trigg*, on November 15 (WL) and at Louisville on November 17 (PM, JM). Both individuals were photographed but photos do not show definitive characters for pure *J. h. mearnsii*. Also, first appeared at Annis on October 7 (DT); 1 on October 12 in

Campbell (FR); 10 on October 24 in *Grayson* (JP); first observed at Cave Run on October 31 (FB).

Lapland Longspur – An early fall date for the state was represented by one heard calling as it passed overhead west of Carter Caves State Resort Park, *Carter*, on October 11 (BPB); an exceptionally impressive peak fall count of 550+ was tallied at McElroy on November 25 (DR). Also reported were 4 on November 24 in *Fulton* (HC, RD).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 1 on September 21-22, 5 on September 30, with 1 present October 1-16 at *Annis* (DT); 19 on September 25 at *KyBend* (KL); 1 female on October 2 at *Bellevue* (FR); 1 on October 8 at *Short Creek* (JP); last observed in *LBL* on October 10 (PL, WL).

Blue Grosbeak – 1 on August 5 and 21 in *Campbell* (FR); 1 on August 11 at *Short Creek* (JP); 1 on August 17/26 in *Hart* (MS); 3 (a male and a female carrying food to a recently fledged young) on August 20 at *Mt. Zion* (RD); 1 on September 2 at *KyBend* (KL, BL); a group of 5 present in east *Jefferson* until September 22 (BW).

Indigo Bunting – 1 was still in *Adair* on October 25 (RD); 2 late lingering individuals were reported at *Barren, Barren*, on November 3 (JE) and at *Green, Taylor*, on November 17 (BPB).

Bobolink – A few migrants were noted during typical flight period with latest being 1 on October 9 at *Drakes* (JE).

Red-winged Blackbird – Flock of 450+ on September 25 at *KyBend* (KL, BL).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – 1 or 2 males were seen at *Camp #11* on October 27 (BPB, MS, BY).

Rusty Blackbird – 3 on November 16 at *Petersburg* (LM).

Brewer's Blackbird – Fall migrants were reported as follows: 2 at *McElroy* on October 25 (DR) and 2 at the *WKU Farm* on November 21 (DR).

Brown-headed Cowbird – Flock of 300 on October 27 in *Fulton* (HC).

Purple Finch – Noteworthy for their general absence during the fall period were any numbers of this species at all.

Pine Siskin – Conspicuous by its near absence during the normal fall flight period; the only reports were from *South Williamson, Pike*, on October 5/12 (JC) and a single individual at *Barren* on November 7 and 16 (DR).

Evening Grosbeak – A single female was well described from near *West Liberty, Morgan*, on the extraordinarily early date of September 22 (ME). This report is five days earlier than Kentucky's previously reported early fall record.

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(SSt); Ian Stewart (IS); Mitchell Sturgeon (MS); Steve Sweeney (SS); Marilee Thompson (MT); Doris Tichenor (DT); Bob van Hoff (BvH); Mark Vukovich (MV); Stephen White (SW); Jeff Wilson (JW); Barbara Woerner (BW); Ben Yandell (BY); Beckham Bird Club (BBC); Daviess County Audubon Society (DCAS); Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS); many observers (m. ob.); Northern Kentucky Bird Club (NKBC); Somerset Bird Club (SBC).

— 437 Sunset Lane, Morehead, KY 40351

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 2002-2003

Reports of 28 counts were received from across the Commonwealth. A total of 137 species was recorded on count days, 125 of which are represented on the table. Those species observed on count days not represented on the table include: Red-necked Grebe (Land Between the Lakes), Blue-winged Teal (Glasgow), Black Scoter (Warsaw), Golden Eagle (Bernheim Forest), Ruffed Grouse (Richmond), Lesser Black-backed Gull (Land Between the Lakes), Barn Owl (Calloway County), Rufous Hummingbird (Danville), House Wren (Somerset), Sedge Wren and 2 Barn Swallows (Paradise), and a Palm Warbler (Bernheim Forest). There were 16 species observed on all counts and 19 species observed only on one count.

Temperatures were fairly mild on average throughout the count period. The low temperature was 19°F at Falls of Rough on January 4 and the high temperature at 62°F in Glasgow on December 20. The mild temperatures may have contributed to the reduced numbers of most species of waterfowl. The number of Red-breasted Nuthatches decreased from 105 last year to 14 this year. Despite reports of increased incidence of West Nile Virus in raptors and owls, the number of these groups held their own this year. However, the number of crows was lower. The Eurasian Collared-Dove increased in number. Cedar Waxwing and American Robin numbers were much lower.

Thanks to the many observers and compilers who participated in this year's count. Three new counts were initiated this year, Wayne County, Upton, and Natural Bridge State Resort Park. One count that is partially in Kentucky will be covered at the end of this report. Also, thanks to compilers who submitted documentation for unusual species to the editor and to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee.

Ballard County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1984.) Habitat as described in 1984. Dec 23; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky mostly clear; temp. 27° to 40° F; wind NE 0-15 m.p.h. Water mostly open.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 18 (10 on foot, 8 by car). Total party-miles 82 (4 on foot, 78 by car). Total species 82; 16,563 individuals.

Observers: Hap Chambers, Amy Covert, Robert Dever, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler).

Wonderful weather made for pleasurable birding. Mild conditions for several weeks prior to the count accounted in large part for lower waterfowl diversity and numbers, which resulted in a relatively low species total. Highlights included a Marsh Wren in a patch of cattails at a small pond in La Center; two "peenting" American Woodcocks and at least two Le Conte's Sparrows on the West Kentucky WMA, McCracken County; and a flock of 140 Greater White-fronted Geese on the Ballard WMA. Also, some of the bottomland forest tracts on Ballard WMA were filled to capacity with Red-headed Woodpeckers – more, in

fact, than in any year since 1984 (in contrast, *none* were observed on the 2000-01 count). Eurasian Collared-Doves were observed again in LaCenter. Canada and Snow Goose numbers were reported by an overflight by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. An additional *Accipiter* and thousands of blackbirds that streamed overhead at dawn are not included in the count total.

Calloway County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 30% urban and residential, 15% deciduous and pine woods, 35% open fields, 20% lake shore and streams. Dec 28; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 33° to 52°F; wind SW, 6-12 m.p.h.

Six observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 30.5 (8 on foot, 22.5 by car). Total party-miles 237.5 (6.5 on foot, 231 by car). Total species 83; total individuals 6,485.

Observers: Hap Chambers (compiler), Melissa Easley, Joe Tom Erwin, Bob Head, Mike Miller, Dr. Charles Mercer, and Wendell Webb.

Land Between the Lakes (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay picnic ground.) Habitat as described in 1984 in *American Birds*. Dec. 14; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 33° to 49°F; wind, SW, 8-12 m.p.h.

Twenty three observers in 8-10 parties. Total party-hours 56 (17.25 on foot, 38.75 by car). Total party-miles 371 (14 on foot, 357 by car). Total species 93; total individuals 25,207.

Observers: Mark Bennett, Jami Carroll, Hap Chambers, Laura Chapin, Karen Clement, Melissa Easley, Joe Tom Erwin, Donald Gladis, Adam Green, Patrick Holcomb, Bill Lisowsky, Paula Lisowsky, Jamie Lua, Carl Mowery (compiler), Kathy Mowery, Della Oliver, John Polpeter, Lisa Richter, Darrin Samborski, Tommy Sherwood, Garrett Thompson, Wendell Webb, and Avira Yasgur.

There were 13 adult and 3 immature Bald Eagles on the count day.

Sorgho (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Hwy. 279-S and Audubon Parkway intersection.) Habitat agriculture, rivers, ponds, river bottoms/small woods, urban, city, county, and state parks with woods and open spaces. Jan 1; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast, with mist to light rain most of the day; temp. 40° to 43°F; wind N, 9 m.p.h. It was a dismal day with poor visibility, especially early.

Twelve observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 32.5 (5.5 on foot, 27 by car). Total party-miles 273 (4 on foot, 269 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 12,365.

Observers: Pat Augenstein, Amy Covert, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Janet Howard (compiler), Mary Kissel, Charles Morris, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Joyce Porter, Marilee Thompson and Carolyn Williams.

Olmstead (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the junction of Ky 1041 and Ky 1151.) Habitat approximately 75% is cultivated farmland. The remaining habitat includes blocks of deciduous woods, fencerows, pasture, grown-up fields, developed areas, and open water. Dec. 28; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Two hours of owling. Sky clear early, changing to overcast in mid-morning, then to partly sunny, shortly before sunset; temp. 28° to 54°F; wind, sustained from SW, 5-15 m.p.h. Small bodies of water had a thin layer of ice. The ground was frozen, but covered by an upper layer of thawed mud.

Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 9 (3 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 97 (2 on foot, 95 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 3,127.

Observers: Mark Bennett (compiler), Frank Lyne, and David Roemer.

Starlings were at a record high. Starlings and Horned Larks combined accounted for the majority of individuals. A good variety of species was observed, but individual numbers were down for most species and no rarities were observed.

Paradise (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1993.) Habitat as described in 1993. Jan 4; 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 23° to 45° F; wind SW 0-12 m.p.h. Water open.

Thirteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 44.5 (16.5 on foot, 28 by car). Total party miles 233 (12 on foot, 221 by car). Hours owling: 1.0. Total species 88; 114,447 individuals.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Mark Bennett, Hap Chambers, Amy Covert, Brad Davis, Roseanna Denton, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Scott Record, Robert Rold, Mark Vukovich, Major Waltman, Katie Wilding, and Eric Williams.

Participation was slightly below average for recent years, but a very nice day weather-wise assisted in obtaining an approximately average species total (88). Warm weather throughout the early winter period resulted in the lowest numbers and diversity of waterfowl in several years, however a couple of highlights included a Ross's Goose with domestic geese on a farm pond in Ohio County (MW) and two Greater White-fronted Geese on the Gibraltar WMA in Muhlenberg County (MV, BD). Additional highlights were mostly lingering migrants and summer residents and included four species that were all found within about a one square mile area on the Sinclair Unit of Peabody WMA and the Paradise Steam Plant in Muhlenberg County: two Barn Swallows were observed foraging over the main power plant slurry pond (and remained at least to 8 January) (MB, HC, RD, SR); two Great Egrets were observed on a small lake (MB, SR); a Sedge Wren was found in a marshy grassland (MB, HC, RD, SR); and a Least Sandpiper was on another power plant impoundment (MB, SR). Slightly less exciting finds included a Merlin (MW, MV, BD) and a peenting American Woodcock in Ohio County (BPB, AC), and three Pine Warblers in Muhlenberg County (BPB, AC, RR). The total number of Northern Harriers (49) and Rough-legged Hawks (6) remained well below count highs recorded in the early to mid-1990s. A warm, breezy evening was in part responsible for a low total (5) of Short-eared Owls, but there do seem to be few birds on the mines again this winter. Very conspicuous by their absence in the area's numerous pine thickets were Red-breasted Nuthatches. Two *Accipiters* and probably several hundred thousand blackbirds are not included in the total.

Bowling Green (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green.) Habitat deciduous forest 20%, fields and pastures 60%, and town and parks 20%. Dec. 18; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with 1 hour owling 6:00 - 7:00 a.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 53° to 62°F; wind SW 10-30 m.p.h.

Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16 (14 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 82 (4 on foot, 78 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 5,297.

Observers: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), John Kitsteiner, Dick Lord, Wayne Mason, and Albert Meier.

Glasgow (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1986.) Habitat as described in 1986. Dec. 20; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 31° to 62°F; wind SSW, 5-15 m.p.h.

Two observers in 2 parties, 1 feeder watcher. Total party-hours 15.5 (11.5 on foot, 4.0 by car). Total party-miles 49 (8 on foot, 41 by car). Total species 57; total individuals 4,604.

Observers: Marquita Gillenwater, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), and Billie Mae Moore (feeder watcher).

Mammoth Cave National Park (Center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 21; 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sky sunny; temp. 37° to 47°F; wind SW, 0-9 m.p.h.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16.5 (10 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party-miles 95.5 (12.5 on foot, 83 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 997. Two turtles

were sunning themselves at First Creek.

Observers: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Wayne Mason, and Albert Meier.

Falls of Rough (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Short Creek Ky Hwy 79 and 54 intersection). Habitat: River corridor, lakes, woodland, and cultivated fields. Jan. 4; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky not recorded but no precipitation; temp. 19° to 39°F; wind, calm.

Eight observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 15 (2 on foot, 13 by car). Total party miles 159 (2 on foot, 157 by car). Total species 56; total individuals 1,751.

Observers: Kathryn Clay, Rebecca Foreman, Mary Harrel, Neal Hayden, Janet Howard, Kevin Litsey, Joyce Porter (compiler), and Doralee St. Clair.

Bernheim Forest (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1974.) Habitat as described in 1974. Dec. 22; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. EST. Sky mostly clear; temp. 34° to 49°F; wind NW 5-20 m.p.h. Water open.

Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 37 (18 on foot, 19 by car). Total party miles 204 (12 on foot, 192 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 8,700.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Jane and Pat Bell, Dona Coates, Pat Meyer, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Father David Powers, and Major Waltman.

Breezy conditions hampered the detection of songbirds to some extent. Berry-eating species were present in well-below-average numbers. For the first time in recent memory, both Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches were missed on this count. Highlights included the two adult Bald Eagles (DC, DP, BPB) and one sub-adult Golden Eagle (BPB); one Bald and the Golden were observed in the traditional area along Wilson Creek, but the other Bald was observed in rural countryside closer to Bardstown. A Palm Warbler was seen very close to a spot in open farmland near Lebanon Junction where at least two were seen in 1998 (BPB). Two Chipping Sparrows were observed east of Sheperdsville (MW). Most of the vultures were observed gathering at what is becoming a traditional roost site near the Nelson County landfill (DC, DP). A small flock of migrant Sandhill Cranes was observed passing by in mid-afternoon (BPB).

Louisville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Jct. Hwys 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to mostly sunny; temp. 29° to 50°F; wind SW, 5-8 m.p.h.

Thirty-one observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours 72 (31.25 on foot, 40.75 by car). Total party-miles 373 (28 on foot, 345 by car). Total species 89; total individuals 16,287.

Observers: Win Ahrens, Michael Autin, Charlie Baker, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell and Pat Bell (compilers), Dona Coates, David Dorman, Cindy Dumas, Jane Fender, Rod Goforth, Adrienne Hardesty, J.R. Harris, Charles Hatten, Carol Hyatt, Bob Johnson, John Krull, Celia Lawrence, Fred Mansmith, Doxie Noonan, Clara Ann Pallares, David Pallares, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Bill Parsley, Mary Ann Parsley, Martha Pike, Helga Schutte, Jack Still, Scottie Theiss, Major Waltman, and Barbara Woerner.

The 31 observers had a beautiful day on Sunday, December 15 for the Louisville bird count. The sky was mostly sunny with a high of 50 degrees and the wind was calm. The species count was much better than last year's 76 but the individual count was lower by 1,633. Some of the highlights were: four Common Loons, two Mute Swans, 78 Hooded Mergansers, two Peregrine Falcons, 15 Sandhill Cranes, 42 Bonaparte's Gulls, 591 Ring-billed Gulls, 114 American Crows (Last year 386-West Nile Virus may have played a part in this low count), four Brown Thrashers, four American Pipits, two Lapland Longspurs, one Pine Siskin, and two Gray Catbirds.

Shelbyville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three-quarters of a mile

[illegible]

	4	9	47	2	78	20	107	11	4	14	29	76
HOODED MERGANSER	4	9	47	2								
COMMON MERGANSER			47									
RED-BR. MERGANSER			1	1	cw							
RUDDY DUCK	20	7	15	1	2	2						
BALD EAGLE	30	7	15	1	2	2						
NORTHERN HARRIER	4	4	1	4	3	49						
SHARP-SH. HAWK	1	1	3	1	2	2						
COOPER'S HAWK	1	1	3	3	4	3						
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	7	9	6	6	1	3						
RED-TAILED HAWK	22	11	18	26	14	29						
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK				6								
AMERICAN KESTREL	10	15	8	56	31	17						
MERLIN	1			1								
PEREGRINE					2							
WILD TURKEY	46	10	16	6	61	14	34					
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	11	10	10	1	10	12						
AMERICAN COOT	5	800	1345	2	40	4	2					
SANDHILL CRANE												
KILLDEER	106	63	56	17	73	72	10	31	7	4	9	
DUNLIN	5	3										
LEAST SANDPIPER	9	9	9	1								
COMMON SNipe	14	2				2	2	5	4	1	4	
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	2		1	1		1						
BONAPARTE'S GULL	740	3618		1		71						
RING-BILLED GULL	100	220	10788	6	3	642						
HERRING GULL	1	3	573									
ROCK DOVE	5	34	172	107	157	15	311	34				
MOURNING DOVE	91	64	57	231	169	34	176	64				
EUR. COLLARED-DOVE	6	4	19	2								
E. SCREECH OWL	1	1		3	1		1	1	1	1	1	
GREAT HORNED OWL	3	3	1	3	4	2	4	3	1	1	1	
BARRED OWL	6	2	5	2			1	1	1	1	1	
SHORT-EARED OWL					5							
BELTED KINGFISHER	4	4	17	2	1	12	6	2	1	5	4	
RED-H. WOODPECKER	265	22	128	1	2	6	1	cw	1	4	3	

[illegible]

BROWN THRASHER	8	10	1		1	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	7616	961	757	183	2385	1932	1	37	4	37					
EUROPEAN STARLING	4500	1580	625	3271	1550	5226	2758	2775	27	321	4830	6837	4424	1761	620	914	2630	3012	207	9787	7616	961	757	183	2385	1932	14585	86074	
AMERICAN PIPIT	26	2	20	15		11			4						12											3	93		
CEDAR WAXWING	13	4	29	13		18	38	8	29	10	6	36	20	15		18	14	6	2	12						291			
YEL-RUMPED WARB	3	2		1	15	7	3	26	2	51	3	1	6	4	8	10	3				5	9	6	3	2	5	1	35	211
PINE WARBler					3	1	1																				5		
EASTERN TOWHEE	23	34	91	21	15	22	40	14	7	8	14	25	ew	7	3	3	3	11	1	19	16	5	4	6	8	7	55	462	
AM. TREE SPARROW	12		14		12		9	10		2	9	10			1		4	1	2		41	19	7	2			136		
CHIPPING SPARROW			3		6		6		2	8					3			4							32	15	2	75	
FIELD SPARROW	61	51	40	36	6	41	26	15	18	9	43	36		78	4	22	32	12	18	34	24	25			26	15	89	76	761
VESPER SPARROW																									2		2		
SAVANNAH SPARROW	5	4	1	3	6	11	6								18									2	5	6	67		
LECONT'S SPARROW	2																										2		
FOX SPARROW	2		2	2	6	18	9	8	6	1	8	1			1	2	3	1		2	1						8	81	
SONG SPARROW	92	50	71	81	26	234	109	81	38	19	67	142	16	165	40	24	54	86	53	62	66	84	83	82	105	24	9	172	2135
SWAMP SPARROW	53		30	9	2	218	41	2	3	9	13	8	6	3		2	12				2	5	7	5		4	11	445	
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	113	168	349	12	16	128	252	101	84	6	85	201	3	50	24	68	59	113	48	51	199	38	40	9	49	18	177	2458	
WHITE-CR. SPARROW	26	80		90	9	7	7			6	56	30	34	42	8	3	35	67		49	25	16	34	4	46	11	76	761	
DARK-EYED JUNCO	181	211	895	62	20	118	20	11	111	43	568	171	11	48	44	95	91	163	62	62	169	71	74	71	64	18	10	274	3676
LAPLAND LONGSPUR			25	34				1				2																62	
NORTHERN CARDINAL	207	105	195	459	51	146	96	57	14	68	167	417	75	90	34	128	69	169	49	388	278	112	119	57	149	32	9	342	4082
RED-W. BLACKBRD	3300		451	1011	100	533	19	198	27	20	5	135	7	10		960				3	4	6		20	32	179	59787		
EAST. MEADOWLARK	42	92	9	51	84	59	25	14	19	19	10	44	127	82	8	10	68	1	30	53	4	3	13	49	1	80	997		
RUSTY BLACKBRD	20	3	5	37		5	11		48						40					1		1		1		1	1	172	
BREWER'S BLACKBRD			3										4							2				20			29		
COMMON GRACKLE	1565	555	254	455	3	51964	76		18	2	1	3	800	1	500	110			29	2	2		2001	3	33394	91736			
BROWN-H. COWBRD	3	3	31	864	11	5	59		4	500	2								37	2	1	1		8	15		1546		
PURPLE FINCH								7											6		2		1	30		46			
HOUSE FINCH	24	16	12	27	8	6	90	21	50	32	149	80	2	37	17	17		193	217	24	12	6	47	2	239	1328			
PINE SISKIN									1	6																	7		
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	52	27	105	54	12	130	56	25	32	30	154	265	158	30	78	32	18	67	8	130	131	105	84	41	76	22	19	110	2051
HOUSE SPARROW	58	38	22		84	71	45	37	37	33	302	1646	126	36	59	31	104	34	222	210	68	22	79	79	44	107	3594		
DAY OF COUNT	D23	D28	D14	J1	D28	J4	D18	D20	D21	J4	D22	D15	D29	D27	D29	D14	D28	D29	D28	D14	D14	D28	D14	J4	D14	D14	J4	J1	
NUMBER OF SPECIES	82	83	93	63	66	88	68	57	46	56	68	89	51	63	53	49	65	63	44	57	74	63	64	57	70	70	74		
INDIVIDUALS	16563	6485	25207	12365	3127	114447	5297	4604	997	1751	8700	16287	8124	3910	2654	3275	4933	6311	11108	12993	12864	3656	2994	1842	6557	36254	1465910		
OBSERVERS	4	6	23	11	3	13	6	2	4	8	8	31	8	9	9	10	6	8	4	25	36	12	7	6	9	1	7	15	

south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farmland, fallow land, suburban, wooded and grassland. Dec. 29; 7:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sky clear and sunny; temp. 32° to 55°F; wind SW, 10 m.p.h.

Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 22.25 (2.00 on foot, 20.25 by car). Total party-miles 148 (2 on foot, 146 by car). Total species 51; total individuals 8,124.

Observers: Heather Brown, Iris Brown, Joan Brown, Todd Brown, W.H. Brown (compiler), Kathy King, Kathy Robertacio, and Benton Young.

Hart County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center corner of Craddock Road and Gerald's Lane.) Habitat rural farmland and wooded areas, including Green River and 100 Acre Pond. Dec. 27; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 22° to 40°F; wind 0 m.p.h. Only open water was the Green River. Excellent visibility.

Nine observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 11 (9 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 69 (2 on foot, 67 by car). Total species 69; total individuals 3910.

Observers: Bruce Bardin, John Brittain, Lisa Brittain, Carol Friedman, Dan Givens, Dave Givens, Danny Gosser, Steve Kistler (compiler), and Mitchell Sturgeon.

This ties our species total for this count, which is 16 years old. None of us had seen an eagle in Hart County before. There were three today!

Upton (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.5 miles S.W. of Hilltop in Grayson County. Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. Sky mostly sunny; temp. 30° to 57°F.

Nine observers in 1 party. Total party-miles 98 (3 by foot, 95 by car). Total species 53; total individuals 2,654.

Observers: John Brittain (compiler), Lisa Brittain, Steve Kistler, Janet Kistler, Dan Givens, Dave Givens, Bruce Bardin, Carol Friedman, and Daniel Gosser.

Frankfort (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 14; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 34° to 37°F; wind NW, 8-19 m.p.h.

Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 22.5 (6.0 on foot, 16.5 by car). Total party-miles 236 (5 on foot, 231 by car). Plus 4 at feeders for 10 hours. Total species 49; total individuals 3,275.

Observers: James Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Jim Durrell, Peggy Gould (compiler), Ralph Gould, Pat Hankla, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Margaret Lafontaine, Robert Laurenson, Susan Laurenson, Anna Schindler, David Schindler, and Tim Williams

Food was in good supply with bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and holly.

Green River Lake (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor County, Kentucky.) Habitat old fields, agricultural fields and borders, second growth forest, Green River riparian areas, open water, including Green River Lake and Campbellsville City Lake, as well as feeder watchers. Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 28° to 53°F; wind 0-20 m.p.h. Ponds had a thin layer of ice.

Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 19 (9.25 on foot, 9.75 by car). Total party-miles 85 (4 on foot, 8 by car). Total species 65; total individuals 4,933.

Observers: Richard Cassell, Lloyd Curry (compiler), Roseanna Denton, Richie Kessler, Arlene Morton, and Brainard Palmer-Ball.

There were low numbers of some species, such as Downy Woodpeckers and a low species count on Green River Lake. There were good numbers of Bald Eagles.

Otter Creek Park (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 2001. Dec. 29; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. EST. Sky mostly clear; temp. 34° to 58°F; wind SW 5-15 m.p.h. Water open.

Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 25 (5.5 on foot, 19.5 by car). Total party-miles 217 (5 on foot, 212 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 6,311.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Richard Cassell, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Dakin Poland, Jeff Sells, and Mary Walter.

Weather conditions were good for the count with mostly sunny skies and a light breeze until mid-afternoon. Lower-than-average participation and a lack of waterfowl resulted in a below-average species total (63). Berry-eating species were present in well below-average numbers. Highlights included the Ross's Goose, which was found at a farm pond near Maples Corner in southwestern Meade County in the company of a flock of domestic geese (JB, PB), and an adult Bald Eagle sitting along the Ohio River adjacent to the Park (MB).

Kleber Wildlife Management Area (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 28; 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 28° to 49°F; wind S, 9-21 m.p.h. Intermittent snow showers throughout the day. The ground was snow covered.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14.75 (1.00 on foot, 13.75 by car). Total party-miles 156 (1 on foot, 155 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 1,108.

Observers: Joe Burgess, Jim Durell, Peggy Gould (compiler), and Ralph Gould.

Bittersweet was available for food. Warmer temperatures brought out gnat-like insects.

Danville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat as described before. Dec. 14; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 34° to 38°F; wind S, 5 m.p.h.

Twenty-five observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 46.5 (8.5 on foot, 38.0 by car). Total party-miles 436 (11 on foot, 425 by car). Total species 57; total individuals 12,993.

Observers: Kurt Dorman, Neil Eklund (compiler), Virginia Eklund, Martha Foster, Bill Garriott, Bruce Gordon, JoAnn Hamm, Mike Hamm, Tom Kearns, J.W. Kemper, Cheryl Kreider, Debbie Larkin, Fred Loetscher, Gail Manning, Jack Newton, Amelia Nichols, John Nichols, Don Pelly, Rob Pendygraft, Jami Powell, Rose-Marie Roessler, Ralph Schiefferle, Joan Smith, Denise Starns, and Tracey Ward.

Lexington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church on Bates Creek Road.) Habitat mixed residential and farmland. Dec. 14; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to clear; temp. 40° to 54°F; wind SW, 5-7 m.p.h.

Thirty-six observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 27 (2 by foot, 25 by car). Total party-miles 482 (1 by foot, 481 by car). Total species 74; total individuals 12,864.

Observers: Bob Andriani, Janine Baker, Marty Barr, Judy Brant, Mike Burns, Rose Canon, Wayne Davis, Phylis Deal, Edward Demoll, Mike Flynn, Jonathon Glixson, Paul Hager, Meg Hatch, Kelly Helton, Jeanne Hibberd, Mike Kenawell, Allen Kingsland, Teri Koontz, Betty Maxson, Robert L. Morris (compiler), Emily Morrison, Kay Neikerk, Brian Perry, Carol Pickett, Art Ricketts, Tina Ricketts, Lew Shein, Chris Smigell, Ann Stewart, Gene Stinchcomb, Jannet Stith, Marie Sutton, Dave Svetich, Andy Uterhart, Jim Williams, and Bernice Wood.

This was one of the better days we have had for quite some time. The weather was the best we have had for some years. We found larger numbers of birds for the most part. We had more people working, but some were only for short times. Every little bit helped.

Burlington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Camp Michaels.) Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 27° to 42°F; wind SW, 6-13 m.p.h. Lakes, ponds and streams open.

Twelve observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 31 (13 on foot, 18 by car). Total party-miles 181 (8 on foot, 173 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 3,656.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Melissa Desjardin, Allen Easton, Ed Groneman, Lee McNeely (compiler), Rachel Ryan, Carmen Schulte, Katie Schulte, Sandy Seddersen, Susanne Stahley, and Tommy Stephens. Feeder watchers: Marjorie Hill and Lynda McNeely.

A pair of Brewer's Blackbirds was observed at a feedlot near the East Bend Power Plant.

Warsaw (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County Courthouse.) Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 14; 7:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 34° to 40°F; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Most lakes and ponds frozen.

Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 21 (8 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 136 (4 on foot, 132 by car). Total species 64; total individuals 2,994.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Amy Covert, Allen Easton, Helen Lloyd, Lee McNeely (compiler), and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

The Black Scoter was found on the Ohio River above Markland Dam. The Peregrine Falcons were at the Ghent Power Plant.

Falmouth (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Caddo, Kentucky.) Habitat 50% woodland and forest edge, 25% river and lake shoreline, 20% agricultural, and 5% residential. Jan. 4; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky mostly sunny; temp. 26° to 32°F; wind W, 0-10 m.p.h. Most water open.

Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 19 (6 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 156 (2 on foot, 154 by car). Total species 57; total individuals 1,842.

Observers: Rhonda Bryant, Ed Groneman, Frank Lewandowski, Scott Marsh, Lee McNeely (compiler), and Tommy Stephens.

The Merlin was seen outside of Falmouth. All three Bald Eagles were seen near Meldahl Dam.

Richmond (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.75 miles north of intersection of Bobtown Road and the Kingston-Berea Road). Habitat Fencerows and roadsides (20%), woodland (20%), pasture and open fields (55%), lawns (4%), lakes and ponds (1%). Dec. 14; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast with occasional heavy rain and sleet; temp. 32° to 38°F; wind, 5-15 m.p.h.

Nine observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 33.25 (4 on foot, 29.25 by car). Total party-miles 261 (4 on foot, 257 by car). Total species 70; total individuals 56,557.

Observers: Chris Distel, Janet Gorrell, Michael Hodge, Daniel Marsh, Scott Marsh, Brandon Ritchison, Gary Ritchison (compiler), Budd Veverka, and Kathleen Welsh.

We were not permitted access to the restricted area on the Blue Grass Army Depot; limited access was permitted in the perimeter area.

Wayne County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the junction of Hwy. 1275 and Highway 3106) Habitat 5% urban, 20% residential, 15% lakes, streams and ponds, 25% woodland, 20% pastures, and 15% cultivated. Dec. 14; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 32°F to 36°F; wind WNW, 5-15 m.p.h. It drizzled occasionally in the early morning.

One observer in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (5.5 on foot, 4.5 by car). Total party-miles 56 (1 on foot, 55 by car). Total species 70; total individuals 3,625.

Observers: Roseanna Denton (compiler).

Somerset (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the junction of Bypass E89 and Hwy. 39.) Habitat as described in 2002. Jan. 1; 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp 42° to 50°F; wind NNW, 2-7 m.p.h. Occasional drizzle throughout the day.

Fifteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 56 (20.5 on foot, 35.5 by car). Total party-miles 373 (14 on foot, 359 by car). Total species 74; total individuals 65,910. Two and one-half hours and 12 miles of owling. Feeder watchers spent 16 hours watching feeders.

Observers: Judy Brant, Granville Cox, Roseanna Denton (compiler), Steve Denton, Gay Hodges, Steve Kickert, Gary McClendon, Linda McClendon, Lynda Mills, Tom Mills, Arlene Morton, Connie Neeley, Stephen Stedman, Jim York and Margaret York. Feeder watchers: Irene Broyles, Evelyn Garrett, Jim Hodges, Susan Hoffman, Eileen Hurst, Mary Moss,

Wendell Neeley, Joe Richards and Jo Vanolver.

Natural Bridge State Park (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Whittleton Branch Trailhead.) Habitat: mostly mixed mesophytic forest, some roadside fields, some streamsides. Jan. 4; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 25° to 35°F; wind NW, 5 m.p.h. There was some snow but with no accumulation.

Seven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 30.5 (28.5 on foot, 2.0 by car). Total party-miles 33.5 (16 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total species 27; total individuals 414.

Observers: Beth Blankenship, Peter Rapoport, Gerald Robe, Dave Skinner, Heather Weese, Zeb Weese (compiler), and Aimee Wilson.

Mermet Lake, Illinois/Kentucky - This count was conducted December 31 in McCracken County. It rained and the temperature dropped from 54°F to 40°F. Birding lasted 7.5 hours and included 40 miles on the Kentucky side.

Observers: Frank Bennett (compiler), Mike Bowers, Dan Kasselbaum, Vicki Lang, Kelly McKay, Keith McMullin, Cathie Hutchinson, Rhonda Rothrock, Eleanor Smith, Jim Smith, Andrea Douglas, and Terri Treacy. The latter two conducted the Kentucky portion.

Birds observed in the Kentucky portion were: 2 Great Blue Herons, 2 adult Bald Eagles, 1 Northern Harrier, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 American Kestrels, 17 Ring-billed Gulls, 1 Barred Owl, 1 Red-headed Woodpecker, 14 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 5 Downy Woodpeckers, 11 Northern Flickers, 46 Blue Jays, 10 Carolina Chickadees, 15 Tufted Titmice, 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, 5 Carolina Wrens, 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 11 Eastern Bluebirds, 1 Hermit Thrush, 1 American Robin, 30,000 European Starlings, 101 Northern Cardinals, 24 Eastern Towhees, 2 American Tree Sparrows, 100 Field Sparrows, 10 Song Sparrows, 5 Swamp Sparrows, 161 White-throated Sparrows, 108 Dark-eyed Juncos, 5 Eastern Meadowlarks, 550 Common Grackles, 9 Brown-headed Cowbirds, and 95 American Goldfinches.

Ninth Report of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee Lee McNeely, Secretary

This report is the ninth from the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (hereafter KBRC), and covers actions completed from April 2001 through October 2002. Members serving on the committee during this time period were Fred Busroe, Wayne Mason, Lee McNeely, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and David Roemer. The stated purpose of the KBRC is to determine the validity of records of rare birds within Kentucky, maintain the documentation of these records, and to publish a summary of the committee's deliberations.

During this period there was one round of circulation through the KBRC consisting of 22 individual records. Twenty of these were finalized, while two remain unresolved at this point.

Accepted records:

Anhinga anhinga. ANHINGA [#01-03] August 17-19, 2000, Henderson County (BPB) [photographed].

Egretta tricolor. TRICOLORED HERON. [#00-09] September 30, 2000, Madison County (SRee).

Egretta tricolor. TRICOLORED HERON. [#01-16] August 31-September 17, 2001, Horse Cave, Hart County (MS, SK, JK).

Plegadis chihi. WHITE-FACED IBIS. [#00-11] May 20-21, 2000, Lake Shelby, Shelby County (SL) [photographed, first Kentucky record].

Elanoides forficatus. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE. [#01-15] July 31, 2001, Central Kentucky WMA, Madison County (MB).

- Falco mexicanus*. PRAIRIE FALCON. [#01-07] February 8, 2001, Muhlenberg County (BPB).
- Limosa haemastica*. HUDSONIAN GODWIT. [#01-01] October 3, 2000, Kentucky Bend, Fulton County (KL, NM) [second Kentucky record].
- Limosa fedoa*. MARBLED GODWIT. [#00-05] May 4, 2000, Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County (RDev, PO).
- Limosa fedoa*. MARBLED GODWIT. [#01-13] April 15, 2001, Ballard WMA, Ballard County (SR) [eight birds].
- Phalaropus fulicaria*. RED PHALAROPE. [#01-04] September 7-11, 2000, E.W. Brown Power Plant, Mercer County (WK, BPB) [photographed].
- Larus minutus*. LITTLE GULL. [#00-06] April 4, 2000, Ohio River, Kenton And Campbell counties (FR) [second Kentucky record].
- Larus californicus*. CALIFORNIA GULL. [#01-02] March 15-17, 2001, Lake Barkley, Lyon County (BPB, HC, DR).
- Larus californicus*. CALIFORNIA GULL. [#01-14] April 25, 2001, Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County (FR).
- Xema sabini*. SABINE'S GULL. [#01-06] September 30-October 1, 2000, Kentucky Lake, Marshall/Livingston counties (BPB, MBe, HC, RD).
- Streptopelia decaocto*. EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE. [#01-05] May 30, 1999, Hickman, Fulton County (BPB) [first documented Kentucky record].
- Streptopelia decaocto*. EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE. [#01-08] Summer 2000, Hopkinsville, Christian County (EG) [photographed].
- Columbina inca*. INCA DOVE. [#01-11] October 1, 2000, Carlisle County, (SW) [specimen of bird shot by hunter, first Kentucky record].
- Myiarchus cinerascens*. ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER. [#00-10] October 15, 2000, Western Kentucky University Woods, Warren County (JE, DE) [first Kentucky record].
- Ixoreus naevius*. VARIED THRUSH. [#01-10] March 16-22, 2001, Land Between the Lakes, Trigg County, (BL, CS, DR) [photographed, third Kentucky record].

Observers: Mark Bennett (MBe), Mark Bostrom (MB), Hap Chambers (HC), Roseanna Denton (RD), Robert Dever (RDev), Diane Elmore (DE), Jackie Elmore (JE), E.L. Gold (EG), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), William Kemper (WK), Bill Lisowky (BL), Ken Leggett (KL), Shelby Landers (SL), Nancy Moore (NM), Peggy Oates (PO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), David Roemer (DR), Frank Renfrow (FR), Scott Record (SR), Sue Reehm (SRee), Chris Sloan (CS), and Steve White (SW).

Rejected records:

Larus glaucooides. ICELAND GULL. [#99-07] January 10, 1999, Barkley Dam, Lyon/Livingston counties.

Recent action by the KBRC led to a review of species reported in Kentucky without photographic or specimen evidence. The committee agreed to place birds reported by single observers and without photographic or specimen documentation into the hypothetical category. This led to the removal of five species (Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Shrike, Kirtland's Warbler, and Pine Grosbeak) from the official Kentucky list. In addition, two species (Purple Sandpiper and Fork-tailed Flycatcher) were moved to

the hypothetical list based on doubt as to whether the birds were actually recorded in Kentucky. As a result, the current official Kentucky list now stands at 359 species (12 of which are by sight only) with White-faced Ibis, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Inca Dove, and Ash-throated Flycatcher added since the last report.

FIELD NOTES

An American Bittern at Evergreen Cemetery

During the spring of 2002, I spent a considerable amount of time observing the birds of Evergreen Cemetery, which is located at Southgate, Campbell County. While watching the nesting activities of the resident White-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta carolinensis*) and Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*), an unexpected and very much out of place appearance was made by Thoreau's "genius of the bog" – the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).

In the early afternoon of 8 April, the adult Great Horned Owl had moved out of its normal spruce into an exposed location in a pine much closer to the nest tree. It was staring intently in the direction of the nest. It retreated back to the spruce upon my approach. My attention was then drawn to an odd object sticking up from the ground under the nest tree. My first thought was that it was a fallen limb with a branch sticking upwards. I then checked with my binoculars, and was startled to realize that it was actually an American Bittern! It was standing in a rigid upright posture with its neck outstretched and bill pointed upward. It was next to an upright headstone, as if the bittern had mistaken the many obelisk-shaped stones in the cemetery plot for clumps of cattails.

In my stunned condition, I was unsure of what to do next. I was rather concerned that the parent owl might have been eyeing the bittern as a possible prey item or threat to the nest. I quickly went back to my van to gather my camera. I half expected that the bittern would be gone upon my return. But there it was, still standing in rigid stillness next to the stone, apparently confident that its method of deception had not been discovered. I had determined to make my approach between predator and possible prey in order to keep them apart. I hoped to eventually flush the bittern off in the direction opposite of the owl. As I came within camera range, I began snapping off shots with my 300mm lens in place. It was not until well after the bird filled the image of my viewfinder that it began walking (!), not away but actually towards (!) me in order to maneuver around behind an adjacent Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). As I continued towards it, the bittern finally flew off. Although its flight seemed weak and laborious as it disappeared from view, the Great Horned Owl did not follow in pursuit. I was greatly relieved.

This was my first sighting of an American Bittern for Campbell County, and may well be the only record for the county. There is a small area of cattails in a silted in pond at the cemetery, about a hundred yards distant. One can only guess why the bittern was out in the open with this much more appropriate habitat so close by.

It is possible that this species may be attracted to conifers as an alternate source of cover during migration. Peterjohn (1989) describes one of his first sightings of an American Bittern as having been in a residential area, "looking very out of place", perched 15 feet up in a spruce tree. Forbush (1925) lists "cedar swamps" as a characteristic habitat for this species. It might be expected that American Bitterns en route to and from the boreal portion

of their range would have an affinity for conifers along their migration route.

Migrating American Bitterns have been known to end up in a variety of odd situations, such as a fall migrant found in an Ohio warehouse restroom (Whan 2000). There is also that rather notable account from John James Audubon of a Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) having found its way into a house in Cincinnati. This enterprising bird did its best to camouflage itself by standing perched atop a bedpost (Adams 1966). Within Kentucky, there have been several other sightings of American Bitterns in residential areas (Brainard Palmer-Ball pers. comm.). Mengel (1965) describes this species as common in wet broomsedge fields and lowland woods in spring migration. The American Bittern often resorts to the cryptic stance or camouflage posture when standing among tall vegetation as well as out in the open, especially when approached or alarmed (Bent 1926, Sibley 2001). —FRANK RENFROW, 611 South O'Fallon Ave, Bellevue, KY 41073

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INCA DOVE IN FULTON COUNTY

While looking at Eurasian Collared-Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) on the west side of Hickman, Fulton County, on the morning of February 9, 2002, Jenny Yandell and I found an unusually small dove sitting in the middle of the road about 25 feet in front of us. After closer inspection, we realized that we were looking at Kentucky's second recorded Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*). The bird was pale with a whitish face and a scaly appearance to its body caused by even, dark edges to the light grayish-brown feathers. When the bird flew up from the road, we also could see that it had a long, square-tipped tail with extensive white areas in the outer feathers and bright rufous areas in the primaries.

Luckily, the bird stayed in the area for at least two more days, usually being observed near the grain-storage bins along highway 94 where it was originally located. David Roemer and Michael Todd were able to photograph the bird on the 10th and 11th, respectively. On one occasion on the 10th the Inca Dove answered and flew in to a whistled imitation of its 'no hope' call. Diligent searching by a number of birders on February 16 did not produce the bird, and it was assumed to have left the area.

Kentucky's first recorded Inca dove was shot on a dove hunt in northeastern Carlisle County on October 1, 2000, and given to Dr. Stephen B. White of Murray State University. That specimen has been preserved and will be deposited with the U.S. National Museum in

Washington, D.C. (B. Palmer-Ball, Jr., pers. comm.).

Further observations of this species in Kentucky seem likely. As is the case with several other dove species, the Inca dove is expanding its range. The species was originally known to occur throughout much of northern Central America and Mexico, but it has expanded its range both north and south during the past 100 years, typically in association with habitation (Mueller 1992). It was first sighted in North America at Laredo, Texas, in 1866 (Mueller 1992), and has more recently shown up in California, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas (Ehrlich, *et al.* 1988; Kelling 2002). As the Inca Dove's range has expanded northward, the number of records of vagrant individuals also has increased. These include one in northwestern Missouri that was found huddled by a clothes-dryer vent in December 1987 (Wilson 1997), and others as far north and east as New Jersey and Ontario (Mueller 1992). Theories for this expansion include the spread of backyard bird feeding, urbanization (many of the expanding doves seem well-adapted to human neighborhoods), and global warming (doves have small feet that are susceptible to frostbite). — BEN YANDELL, 513 Lymington Ct., Louisville, KY, 40243 (benyand@cs.com).

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Hunting Behavior of and Habitat Use by Eastern Screech-Owls During the Non-breeding Period

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Eastern Screech-Owls (*Otus asio*) are small, nocturnal, sit-and-wait predators found throughout eastern North America (Johnsgard 1988). While several aspects of their behavior and ecology have been examined, *e.g.*, food habits (Ritchison and Cavanagh 1992), home range sizes and habitat use (Sparks *et al.* 1994), and nest site selection (Belthoff and Ritchison 1990), less is known about their hunting behavior. Gehlbach (1994) gathered some information concerning the hunting behavior of Eastern Screech-Owls in central Texas,

however, observations were made only in suburban yards and near nest sites. Thus, little is known about how screech owls hunt in more natural habitats and at locations away from nest sites. The objective of our study was to describe habitat use by hunting Eastern Screech-Owls during the non-breeding period and, specifically, to examine the characteristics of used versus unused perch sites.

Methods

The hunting behavior of screech-owls was studied from November 1994 through March 1995 at the Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, located 17 km southeast of Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky. The study area was composed of a patchwork of small deciduous woodlots, old fields, agricultural fields, and mowed fields connected by woodrows. Beginning in November 1994, screech-owls were captured by checking nest boxes distributed throughout the study area. Nest boxes were checked during daylight hours when screech-owls are typically docile and more easily handled. After capture, radio-transmitters (Wild-life Materials, Inc., Carbondale, IL) were attached backpack style (Smith and Gilbert 1981). Transmitters weighed about 6 gms or about 3 to 4% of total body mass. Owls appeared to adjust quickly to the transmitters and did not appear to behave abnormally (*pers. observ.*). Owls were allowed at least one week to become accustomed to transmitters before observations began. To facilitate observations, a 5 to 8 cm piece of reflective tape was attached to transmitter antennas. The tape was glued and sewed to the wire so that it protruded about 2.5 to 5 cm from the owl's body. The reflective tape added little weight (0.2 to 0.3 gms) to the transmitters.

Owls were observed four or five times each week, with observations typically beginning shortly after sunset and continuing for three to five hours. Observations of each owl were usually 2 to 3 hrs in duration and we usually observed one or two owls each night. During focal owl observations, the general location of a radio-tagged owl was determined using a receiver (TR-2; Telonics, Inc., Mesa, AZ) and a hand-held, two-element antenna. Then, a headlamp or flashlight was used to scan the area. Normally the light would strike the reflective tape on the transmitter's antenna and permit precise location of the owl. We always tried to avoid shining the light directly into an owl's eyes. Because Eastern Screech-Owls are relatively tame and do not fly until an observer comes within 3 or 4 m (*pers. observ.*), observations of screech-owls were typically made at a distance of 10 to 12 m using 10 x 25 binoculars. At this distance, our presence appeared to have little effect on the owls. Focal owls sometimes allowed us to watch them for more than an hour before moving.

When observing owls, all information was recorded on a portable tape recorder for later transcription. During each observation, we noted the location of all hunting perches and, after an owl moved to another location, perches were marked with flagging and plotted on an aerial photograph of the study area. We subsequently returned to perch sites during daylight hours to categorize habitats and characterize vegetation.

Perches were categorized based on the habitat in which they were located. Habitats were categorized as woodlot, woodrow (a strip of woods, generally less than 30 m wide, located along abandoned fencerows or streams), edge (within 2 m of the edge of a woodlot or woodrow), mowed old field (old fields that had been mowed and with vegetation less than 0.5 m high), unmowed old field (with vegetation greater than 0.5 m high), cropland, wet area (an area with standing water; generally these areas were shallow, with water only a few cm deep, and temporary), or stream (within 2 m).

From their perches, screech-owls search for prey and, sometimes, owls perched in one

type of habitat search for prey in another, nearby habitat. For example, owls perched in edge habitat may scan for prey in an adjacent old field. Thus, in addition to noting perch habitats, we also noted search habitats.

Vegetation Sampling

We measured the vegetation surrounding 34 randomly-selected hunting perches (10% of all perches) following the methods described by James and Shugart (1970). Similarly, we randomly selected 34 apparently unused perches by using a random number generator to select map coordinates within the ranges of focal owls. At these randomly-selected coordinates, we then selected a potential, but apparently unused, perch located in woody vegetation. Within a 0.04-ha circular plot centered on used and unused perches, we noted the presence or absence of crayfish burrows, any evidence of small mammals (tunnels in ground cover or fecal pellets), or birds (bird droppings). We also counted the number of dead and downed logs and individual shrubs in each plot. The dbh of all trees greater than 8 cm dbh was also recorded. Canopy height was estimated by calculating the mean height of five randomly chosen trees within the plot. Leaf litter depth and percent canopy, understory, and ground cover were estimated by sampling five 1 m² areas in each plot. One of these areas was located directly below the perch and the four remaining areas were located 1 m from the edge of the center area in each of the four cardinal directions. The depth of the leaf litter was measured using a small ruler, while we estimated the percent ground cover. Percent understory and canopy cover were determined using a spherical densiometer. To determine understory cover, we placed the densiometer above the ground cover and subtracted the percent canopy cover from our reading.

We compared the mean values of used and unused perch sites using multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA). Chi-square tests were used to compare habitat use by male and female screech-owls and certain characteristics of used and unused perches. All values are presented as mean \pm one standard deviation.

Results

Eight adult Eastern Screech-Owls (5 females and 3 males) were captured during the period between 10 November 1994 and 11 March 1995 and these owls were observed for a total of 168.5 hours during 91 evenings. Based on observations during previous breeding seasons and during the breeding season that followed our study, it was determined that two of these owls (male 099 and female 285) represented a mated pair. The mated status of the other owls was unknown.

General hunting behavior

Screech-owls in our study usually left roost cavities 30 - 45 minutes after sunset, and hunted most actively during the first 2 - 3 hours after leaving their roost sites. We observed 35 attacks by screech-owls, with 27 unsuccessful (77%) and eight (23%) successful (one bird, one crayfish, one short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*), and five moths). During attacks, the owls flew quickly from perches (rather than just dropping off perches) and struck prey (or attempted to strike prey) with talons outstretched. Often, screech-owls bobbed their head from side to side (and, less often, up and down) after locating prey. Screech-owls hunting moths typically exhibited jerky head movements, presumably corresponding to the flight patterns of their potential prey. Owls usually waited until moths landed on the ground or other substrate before attacking. Only once did we observe an owl try to 'hawk' a flying moth.

We sometimes observed screech-owls apparently hunting roosting birds. When doing so,

owls typically perched about 4 - 6 m high and looked intently into eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) or dense patches of cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*). The one successful attack on a bird occurred after the screech-owl had been perched in a small tree for 30 min. When the owl located the bird, it moved about 1.5 m and waited 90 sec before diving into a blackberry (*Rubus spp.*) bush. The owl took the small bird to a nearby perch, plucked a few feathers, and swallowed it.

On one occasion, we observed what appeared to be prey thawing behavior. While searching for the focal owl on a cold night (- 12 degrees C), a dead vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) was observed on the ground. It was completely frozen and had puncture wounds in the neck area. Because owls sometimes cache prey on the ground, we left the vole and continued searching for the owl. About 20 min later, the owl was finally located sitting on top of the frozen vole as if it was incubating eggs. The owl's feathers were fluffed out and completely covered the vole. Twice the owl sat up and poked at the vole with its bill. When we left (after 40 min), the owl was still on the vole. While the owl was not observed eating the vole, we believe the owl was sitting on the vole to thaw it out before eating it (the vole was gone when we checked the area the next day). Similar thawing behavior has been reported for Boreal (*Aegolius funereus*) and Saw-whet (*Aegolius acadicus*) owls (Bondrup-Nielsen 1977) and Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*; George and Sulski 1984).

Habitat and perch data

Eastern Screech-Owls ($N = 8$) used 338 hunting perches in 33 different plant species. White ash (*Fraxinus americana*; 12.2% of all perches), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*; 11.6%), summer grape (*Vitis aestivalis*; 7.9%), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*; 7.9%), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*; 6.1%), and sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*; 5.5%) were used most frequently. Of the six perch types (dead branch, dead and downed log, shrub, standing snag, tree, and vine), trees (53.2%) and shrubs (25.4%) were used most frequently. Most hunting perches were located in edge habitat (39.5% of all perches), woodlots (23.1%), and along streams (21.9%). Fewer perches were located in woodrows (5.2%), unmowed old fields (4.8%), mowed old fields (3.3%), and wet areas (2.1%). From these perches, owls searched for prey in mowed old field habitat (29.5% of all observations), along streams (27.0%), and in woodlots (17.8%), wet areas (9.5%), unmowed old fields (6.7%), woodrows (5.1%), and edges (4.4%). Male and female screech-owls differed ($\chi^2 = 62.4$, $df = 6$, $P < 0.0001$) in the habitats where they searched for prey. Males were more likely to search in old-fields that had been mowed and wet areas, while females more often searched along small streams.

The characteristics of the vegetation surrounding used and unused perch sites did not differ significantly (Wilk's Lambda = 0.81, $F = 1.69$, $P = 0.12$). Although there was no overall difference (i.e., multivariate) between used and unused sites, a significant difference was found between used and unused sites in mean litter depth ($F_{1,66} = 8.59$, $P = 0.0046$). Mean litter depth for unused sites was 4.37 ± 2.29 cm ($N = 34$), while that for used sites was 2.93 ± 1.72 cm ($N = 34$).

We also looked for evidence of possible prey in the vicinity of used and unused hunting perches, and found no differences between used and unused sites in the frequency of detection of small mammal or bird sign (χ^2 tests, $P > 0.54$). However, signs of crayfish activity were more likely to be found in the vicinity of used perches than in the vicinity of unused perches ($\chi^2 = 4.0$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.045$).

Discussion

Hunting perches were located primarily in edge habitat, woodlots, and along streams and, from these perches, screech-owls searched for prey primarily in mowed old fields, along streams, and in woodlots. Sparks *et al.* (1994) found that screech-owls in the same study area were typically located in woodlots and edge habitat, but were found in old fields less than expected. Different conclusions concerning use of old fields is likely due to differences in methodology. Sparks *et al.* (1994) monitored radio-tagged screech-owls from fixed locations and estimated the position of owls by triangulation. In contrast, we made direct observations of owls and, therefore, could more accurately determine owl locations. Other investigators have also reported the apparent use of edge habitats by screech-owls (Smith and Gilbert 1984, Hegdal and Colvin 1988), and these habitats may provide the owls with both suitable perches and high prey densities (Kenward 1982, Sparks *et al.* 1994). Edge habitats may also provide more suitable perches than more open habitats and, in addition, greater light levels than more densely wooded areas (Sparks *et al.* 1994). Light levels could be important because previous investigators have suggested that Eastern Screech-owls may rely primarily on sight when searching for prey because they have symmetrical ear openings (Marshall 1967, Norberg 1987). In contrast, some owls, such as Boreal Owls, have asymmetrical ear openings and appear to rely primarily on their sense of hearing (Bye *et al.* 1992).

Streams may have been used frequently by some screech-owls (particularly by one female in our study) because they sometimes prey on small fish (Gehlbach 1995, pers. observ.) and because crayfish are often found in and along streams. Screech-owls that appeared to be hunting crayfish typically used low perches (as low as 0.25 m high) directly over areas where crayfish burrows were common, including streams (pers. observ.). In these areas, the owls seemed to stare directly at crayfish burrows, apparently waiting for one to come to the entrance (pers. observ.).

We found few differences between the characteristics of used perch sites and randomly selected sites. However, used sites did have significantly less litter. Marshall (1967) also reported an apparent preference for hunting areas with little or no litter and observed that screech-owls foraged "by a short flight from a tree to capture prey on the ground . . ." and such foraging "is facilitated by open woodland growth, where there is bare ground under the trees . . ." One possible explanation for the apparent preference of screech-owls for hunting sites with little leaf litter in our study may be their tendency to hunt for crayfish. Areas with high levels of crayfish activity on our study area typically had little litter or had bare ground (pers. observ.), and areas in the vicinity of perches used by screech-owls in our study were more likely to have evidence of crayfish activity (burrows) than unused sites. Other investigators have also noted that crayfish are more likely to be found in areas with little or no litter (Tertuliani 1991).

Acknowledgments

We thank numerous field assistants, including Jeff Hawkins, Dawn Wilkins, Eric Williams, Randy Mowrer, and Ann Abbruzzese, for help in observing the owls, and the Eastern Kentucky University Research Committee for financial support.

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IN MEMORIAM: HUNTER M. HANCOCK

Hunter M. Hancock, Murray State University Professor Emeritus, and longtime member and former President of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, passed away January 28, 2003 at the Hickory Woods Retirement Center, Murray, Kentucky. Dr. Hancock was a superior educator, as attested to by his many students, stressing the importance of learning in the field. Dr. Hancock was also a friend who took a personal interest in each of his students. Dr. Hancock had just celebrated his 92nd birthday on December 22, 2002 and his spirit was typically very positive and high.

Dr. Hancock's long and illustrious career took him from western Kentucky where he graduated from Murray State College to Oklahoma and back to his alma mater during the 1950s as a professor in the biology department. Dr. Hancock served as biology department chairman from which office he retired during the mid 1970s. He was very instrumental in the establishment of a unique MSU Biological Station at Kentucky Lake. The Hancock Biological Station bears his name as a tribute to this effort. Civil War history was another favorite subject and much time was devoted to projects associated with preserving and maintaining interest in the Civil War era. Hunter was still participating in birding trips on Lake Barkley last fall. Dr. Hancock was a Kentucky Bluebird Society member and played an active role in installing successful bluebird boxes and bird feeders at Hickory Woods for residents to enjoy.

Hunter M. Hancock will be greatly missed by those of us who were fortunate enough to have known him, learn from his teachings, and work with him. KOS expresses its sincere sympathies to family and friends.

Submitted by Willard Gray and Ed Ray

Errata: The author line for the Field Note included in the November 2002 issue of *The Kentucky Warbler* (Vol. 78, pp. 72-73) entitled "First Kentucky Record for Nesting Snowy Egrets" was omitted. It should read: --**BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR.**, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 801, Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

Rare bird sightings and birds observed out of season should be well documented and the documentation should be sent to Lee McNeely, Secretary of the KBRC, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005, for consideration by the committee for official state record status.

Reminder of the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline

The number for the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline is (502)-326-0878. Please report any unusual sightings in order to provide others with the opportunity to see rare birds.

K.O.S Web Page

Visit the Kentucky Ornithological Society's web page at www.biology.uku.edu/kos.htm.

K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grant Fund

The K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Research Grant Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky up to \$500. For guidelines on how to apply, please contact Blaine Ferrell, Ogden College of Science and Engineering Deans Office, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 42101 (blaine.ferrell@wku.edu).